

### **ADVENT WEEK 3: A Constant Joy... All in Christ!**

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** which will be for **all** the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

**Luke 2:10-11**

Luke 2:10-11 speaks of a "mega joy" that is now possible because Christ, the Savior, was born! This joy is now possible for all people everywhere who would simply put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, Who, as the God-Man came to die a shameful, yet substitutionary, death on a cross of wood—having lived a perfect life in obedience to God the Father and as a representative of Humanity. It was three days later, however, that Christ rose from the grave and the joy is not only possible... it is perfectly realized! There is absolutely nothing and there is absolutely no one—seen or unseen—who can steal the joy from one saved by this "Baby Born to Die..."

Joy isn't a feeling. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Joy is not simply happiness; it is much more. Joy is the constant and deep satisfaction of soul and spirit based upon the good pleasure and favor of God in Christ. Joy is NOT based on circumstance nor is joy dependent upon positive external stimuli. Joy, then, is truly a work of God on our "innermost being" that is a present possession and future fulfillment... all because Jesus Christ was born that first Christmas Day.

If you lack joy today, would you turn to Jesus, the source of all real and lasting joy? If you haven't, would you believe, now, that Christ died for you sins on the cross and that Christ, also, rose again from the dead three days later? If you have trusted and are trusting... you can have joy unspeakable and unending... all in Christ! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**