

**ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SAVIOR
CHRISTMAS 2011
LUKE 2:8-14**

THE ANGELS ANNOUNCE JESUS

1. The angels **terrified** the shepherds to whom they appeared (Luke 2:8-9).
2. The angel's message was that "a **Savior**" was born (Luke 2:10-11).
3. The message was "good news of **great joy**" (Luke 2:10).
4. Throughout Luke "joy" (*chara*) is most often associated with **salvation**.

KEY THOUGHT: The shepherds **spread** the word of the Savior's birth, and all who heard were **amazed** (*ethaumasano*) (Luke 2:16-18).

I am enthusiastic because...

I. JESUS IS THE SAVIOR (LUKE 2:10).

- A. Old Testament prophecy had pointed to the **Messiah** coming from **David's** descendants (Acts 13:22-23; II Sam. 7:12-16).

*"From the offspring of this man, according to promise,
God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus..."*

Acts 13:23

1. The title "Messiah" means "**anointed** One".
2. "Jesus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew word Joshua, which means "the **Lord saves**".
3. "Immanuel" means "**God with us**".

- B. The Savior **divinely restores** sinners (Acts 5:31).

*"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as
a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and the
forgiveness of sins."*

Acts 5:31

1. Jesus is your **spiritual leader** (Prince).
2. Jesus is your **Deliverer** and **Preserver** (Savior).

KEY THOUGHT: Throughout Luke, "joy" (*chara*) is most often associated with **salvation**.

II. JESUS IS MY SAVIOR (LUKE 2:10).

A. My Savior **destroyed** death and brought eternal life (2 Tim. 1:8-11).

“ . . . but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,”

2 Timothy 1:10

1. You are called to a **holy** life in Christ (2 Tim. 1:9).
2. Jesus embodied God the Father’s saving **purpose** and **plan** (2 Tim. 1:10; Rom. 6:23).
3. “Immanuel” means “**God with us**”.

B. Salvation **requires** a **personal** relationship with the Savior (John 4:42).

C. The Lord Jesus Christ is the **Messiah** and my Savior (Phil. 3:20).

1. My Savior **frees me** from thinking exclusively about earth (Phil. 3:19).
2. My Savior will take me **home** to **heaven** one day (Phil. 3:20).

KEY THOUGHT: The child would be called Jesus – “the Lord **saves**” (Matt. 1:21).

MY ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO JESUS

I want to be enthusiastic because . . .

- I have a personal relationship with Jesus, my Savior.
- My life should overflow with the great joy about my Savior.
- I want my life to be magnetic so it draws others to Jesus, the Savior.
- I do not want to miss my role as a witness to the Savior.

My enthusiasm for my Savior will increase . . .

- By choosing to **reach out** to others who are hurting emotionally and physically.
- By **facing** my fears about sharing His love, knowing the Lord will see me through each time.
- By **inviting** others to worship with you on Sunday morning.
- When I choose to know Him better by **reading** about Him in the Bible.
- By inviting Jesus to be my **personal** Savior right now.

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

December 18, 2011

SUNDAY: *The angels message was that “a Savior” was born (Luke 2:10-11)!* The shepherds were minding their own business, watching their flocks, when an angel lit up the late night sky. The shepherds were terrified by the “invasion” of this incredible creature. They cowered while the message was shared with them “a Savior who is Christ the Lord” has been born in Bethlehem. The angel explained that the news was to be of great “joy” (*chara*). This type of “joy” was often associated with salvation of one’s eternal soul. Throughout the book of Luke, “joy” was descriptive of the salvation the Savior would bring to Israel. Therefore, from the very first heralding of Jesus’ coming to earth the message of salvation was proclaimed. Christmas is synonymous with salvation! Our expressions of “*Merry Christmas*” should contain at least a hint of the message of our Savior’s birth. Pray that the celebration of Christmas would be different this year because of your understanding of its powerful connection to salvation. ***May the revelation that Jesus came as a Savior change how you think about Christmas!***

MONDAY: *The shepherds shared the word of the Savior’s birth, and all who heard were amazed (ethaumasan) (Luke 2:16-18)!* The word for “amazed” was selected with care by Luke. The root word used is where we get our word “enthusiasm”, which means “God in us”. Each time the shepherds shared about the Savior’s birth people were greatly impacted. Could it be that it was not only the content of the message they shared, but the passion with which they shared it? Twelve times Luke used other words used to describe “amazed, wonder” (*thaumazo*). Luke specifically chose *ethaumasan* to describe the response of those that heard the impassioned message of the shepherds. What would it take for you to recapture the passion of the gospel in your speech? Who would be the first person you would want to share the freedom the Savior provides from the depth of your heart? Pray that you would desire to represent the Savior with both excitement and passion. ***May your search for passion about the gospel bring tremendous depth to your walk with God!***

TUESDAY: *God sent a Savior in the person of Jesus (Acts 13:23)!* Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah would come from the lineage of David. One of His names was to be Immanuel which means *God with us* (Isa. 7:14). Jesus would be the long promised Messiah, the “anointed one”, who would save us from our sin (Matt. 1:21). ***Jesus is the Savior of the world!*** That message should permeate every thought, action, and moment of your day. This message should give you courage and create an unquenchable passion to see others be forgiven of their sin by a personal Savior. Would you be willing to ask the Lord to enthuse you to no longer see a crowd of people, but individuals in need of a personal Savior? Pray that this joy of having a personal Savior would spill out of your life onto others! Consider praying today that you would see the Savior as *amazing* so that you could not help sharing the liberating, restoring truth with many you meet each day. ***May your time of reflection on your Savior’s mission of redemption bring “amazing” joy that would spill out of your life!***

WEDNESDAY: *The Savior divinely restores sinners (Acts 5:31)!* God exalted Jesus to be your spiritual leader (Prince). As Savior, Jesus is to be your Deliverer and Preserver. He came that you could be delivered from your sin by accepting Him as your personal Savior. As your Deliverer, He paid the price for your sin and can prompt you to repentance, leading to your salvation. Jesus then preserves you for eternity as one of His own (John 10:28). ***A Savior divinely restores sinners!*** Rejoice that you have a Savior! You will encounter people all day long who are in need of a Savior. What if every Christian shared about his/her Savior with passion and enthusiasm to people who were looking for hope? Imagine if every Christians simply shared the joy of being rescued from sin with those who feel lost and without a purpose. Pray that this Christmas will leave you with a “permanent joy” because you have a Savior. ***May you develop an enthusiasm for your Savior that attracts others to Him!***

THURSDAY: *Enthusiasm for your Savior leads to a magnetic life (2 Tim. 1:9)!* Paul clearly told Timothy that a believer was called to a holy life. However, the surrounding verses put that concept in total perspective. There is to be no shame in testifying about your Savior who saved you (vv. 8-9). Furthermore, we should proclaim our Savior who abolished the sting of death for, and established an eternal relationship between, you and Himself in heaven (v. 10). It is this passionate gospel that we must be sharing with others (v. 11). ***Jesus is your Savior!*** Pray that you will become enthusiastic about that blessed relationship. Ask the Lord to give you passion to share it with others hungry for meaning and purpose in their lives. ***May your commitment to loving your Savior generate a passion for sharing Him with those that need one!***

FRIDAY: *Salvation requires a personal relationship with the Savior (John 4:42)!* John 4 is the account of the woman who encountered Jesus at the well. She began a personal relationship with the Savior and then ran into the town to share it with great enthusiasm. Later in the chapter, the villagers shared with her that they had heard Jesus themselves and now personally believed in Him (v. 42). Each one professing Christ had a personal relationship with the Savior, the Christ. Jesus came to be a Savior who seeks and saves the lost (Luke 19:10). The task for each of us as Christians is to continue that search. sharing with enthusiasm about the Savior that changed your life and will change whoever calls upon Him. Honestly, what is holding you back from being an enthusiastic sharer of the story about your Savior? Pray that you will understand clearly your fears and inhibitions. Ask the Lord to provide some encouragement to be His witness (Acts 1:8). ***May your desire to move forward be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to the point of enthusiasm!***

SATURDAY: *The Savior is called Jesus – “the Lord saves” (Matt. 1:21)!* Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Joshua*. Joshua means “the Lord saves.” Matthew records in the first chapter of his epistle that Mary will bear the Son of God that will save His people from their sins (v. 21). The very name the Son would be given will remind us of His purpose and mission. The Jews missed the Messiah because they were waiting for a military king to come. The Savior slipped passed them. An equal warning is before us as Christians today. If we are so looking forward to the second coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords, we may overlook the mission of His first advent as Savior. We are called to be holy as Christians, but our primary call is to be His enthusiastic witnesses to the Savior who came to save people from their sins. Pray for a revival in your heart that would generate an enthusiasm for sharing about your Savior! ***May your passion for your Savior ignite a wildfire of evangelism wherever you walk!***