

The Invitation, Part 2

December 22/23, 2012

Luke 2

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) 2:8 The invitation to join God the Creator was sent to a most unlikely cast of characters.
- 2) 2:10 Gentiles were included in the invitation.
- 3) 2:13 This was an alteration of the heavenly host's normal occupation in order to let it be known this event was highly regarded in heaven.
- 4) 2:13 Angels, in contrast to us, had no personal stake in this event, yet they came from heaven to celebrate it and to broadcast it.
- 5) 2:14 This was not a universal declaration of peace but rather a pronouncement of peace with God as the outcome of justification (Romans 5:1).
- 6) Now every sinner can have peace with God and the peace of God...if only he would welcome this Savior into his heart.
- 7) 2:14 The union of all God's perfect intentions is seen through the incarnation and eventual death of His Son.
- 8) We have the privilege of sharing the good news with the world, and the angels cannot take our place.

GREEK WORDS

Euangelizō—to preach the good news

Horaō (hor-ah'-o)—to stare at; to discern clearly - to experience:- behold, perceive, see, take heed

Megas (meg'-as) big :- (+ fear) exceedingly, great (-est), large, loud, mighty

Phobeō (fob-eh'-o) to frighten; to be in awe of, fear (exceedingly)

AN INVITATION TO IMITATE THE SHEPHERDS

1. **Investigate the truth of the explanation you have heard.**
 - The shepherds instantly went to Bethlehem to see with their own eyes the truth of what they had heard.
 - Go to the Bible and search these things. Are they as represented?
2. **If convinced, carefully communicate the Truth to others.**
 - The shepherds did not hide the things they experienced, but announced it for the information of others.
 - You have much clearer instruction; do not hesitate to reveal it to those around you.
3. **Make it the foundation of your day in the midst of your earthly business.**
 - The shepherds did not abandon their responsibilities, but returned to them completely changed.
 - A discovery of the things of God is not intended to take you out of life, especially to that which we have been called, but rather to make you fulfilled in your responsibilities, with a new frame of mind.