

## **A SERIES OF CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **FEAR NOT**

Luke 2:8-12 “And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Heaven could not contain itself. The Angels had to celebrate the birth of Jesus. With whom could they share the good news of Jesus’ birth? The people were asleep. “No creature was stirring, not even a mouse.” Oh, where to celebrate the Good News that Jesus was born? The Angels found shepherds who were still awake. These men had to be ever vigilant for predators that would attack their flock.

An Angel appeared to the shepherds. The Angel, radiating glory and holiness, caused the shepherds to be filled with genuine fright. The Angel’s message was astounding! “I have good news for you, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Such breaking news and only shepherds were privileged to hear it. You must realize that shepherds were not socially desirable. Why would God share such good news with them? Why not the temple priests, Sanhedrin, Pharisees and Sadducees? Why would God share this good news with shepherds or with you?

The answer is, with God “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28) Jesus came into the world to save sinners whether poor or rich, famous or infamous, at the top or bottom of the social register, city or rural resident. He cared not what language one spoke (think of Pentecost), what country of origin or color of skin.

The message to the entire world today is the same one delivered to the shepherds the night Jesus was born, "For unto YOU is born this day. . . a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

Prayer: Thank You Lord that the Angel's message is still being proclaimed today. I pray that many will hear and believe the Good News of Christ's birth, come into the world to save sinners everywhere. Amen.

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the  
Newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, Watch o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light.: Refrain:

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain:

Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. Refrain:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One. Refrain:  
(LSB 367)