

December 2009

To our neighbours

Dear neighbours,

The angels who announced the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ to the shepherds, who were out at night on the hillside above Bethlehem, called it "good tidings of great joy".

Good news is hard to come by these days. Good news is worth hearing about. These representatives of heaven insisted that Jesus Christ's birth is good news. It is good news still, for He is alive in heaven now, risen long ago from the dead. His name means Saviour, for He came to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1.21). By His death He made atonement for the sins of every believer who confesses that he/she has done wrong and is repentant before God. Belief in Christ is designed by God to bring great joy. Paul writes to the Christians at Rome, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing" (Romans 15.13). At the point of approaching death what can be more wonderful than to know that everlasting life is promised to every believer? Jesus Christ has been through death before us and conquered it. All who believe in Him shall live in Him and with Him.

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14. 1-3). This is not only good news, it brings joy to the heart that nothing can shake. So do these words (Revelation 21.4), "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away," The prospect of heaven for a believer in Christ is joyful.

Over the Christmas period we have a number of services at which you will be very welcome. On Sunday 20th December our morning service will be at 1045am (with a Christmas theme) and the afternoon service at 2pm is our service of Christmas hymns which families would find ideal to attend together. On Christmas Day itself we hold a service (lasting about an hour) at 1030am. Then on Sunday 27th December (at 1045am and 2pm) our theme will be the **second** coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amid all the merriment may the true and lasting joy of the Lord Jesus Christ grip your life.