

December 3, 2023 – Pastor Guy



*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.*

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

*Luke 2:1-20*

*But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

*Luke 2:19*

*But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

*Luke 2:51b*

Treasured – to preserve, guard, or protect something of great value

Ponder – to put together (puzzle), consider carefully, and draw conclusions

Vs. 51 treasured – dia tereo (intensive word of both treasure and ponder)

Meditation is the key to experiencing the Wonders of Christmas

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

*Joshua 1:8 NKJV*

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

*He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

*Psalms 1:1-3 NKJV*

*I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.*

*Psalms 77:12*

*I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.*

*Psalms 119:99*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

*Philippians 4:8*

Meditate means “to chew the cud”

Example: What does Mary see, feel, smell, hear, taste, think

Insight: We will all be meditating on something this Christmas! (Mentally chewing on something)

Worry is a form of meditation

The Christmas Chew

3-5 minutes

- So what, therefore, if...then
- Context, texture
- What were they...
- Talk with a friend/small group, family time

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

*That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*

*1 Corinthians 15:3b-4*