

Joy in Jesus - Nothing Comes Close Luke 2:8-11

Introduction: Maybe we become settled for something less than the real thing. Substitutes can take over the real thing.

Our true joy in Jesus must rule our hearts!

1. Good news of great joy for all people. The antidote

- Savior
- Christ
- Lord

2. Joy comes to humankind in the form of man.

What it is not

What it is: God's character, joy w/in Himself Nehem. 1:8

Genesis 1:31

Psalms 98:4, 8

Psalms 45:6-7

Hebrews 12:1-3

-Jesus gives divine joy as we actively keep in fellowship w/ Him:

John 15:8-11

John 17:13-14

1Peter 1:8

3. Joy becomes our heart's hunger— the already but not yet. We already have heaven in full, but we're not yet there! Our reality is a tension— living in joyless world, yet we have his attribute of joy. We hunger for fulness of joy. "Father, I just don't sense joy in this painful situation." Unlike happiness, circumstances can't bring joy, it's resident in our new nature! *Joy to the world, the Lord has come. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.*

We meditate on all that is true it chases away the false, the lesser joys of earth. They are not evil, they are just lesser. What are my substitutes? Let's seize the Advent opportunity to quiet, reflect, joy in Jesus our Joy!

Where are you today? Joy begins by admitting your sin, asking forgiveness and receiving your new life. Salvation is real so come today he hears you.