

Thursday, December 24, 2020  
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU"**

**"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."**

*Luke 2: 10-11*

Everyone is afraid of something. On the night of Jesus' birth, the angel appeared to the shepherds and told them not to be afraid; no doubt referring to their fear of the angel and his great glory! Anyone would experience some level of fear in that situation.

So, the angel told the shepherds, "Don't be afraid. We're not here to harm you. We are here to tell you some really good news! You have a Savior!

Again, everyone is afraid of something. The question is, are we afraid of the right thing? In this day and age, there is good reason to have some concern about the potential of war. There is reason to have a sense of caution in certain neighborhoods at certain times of the day. There is reason to have a heightened awareness of the potential of terrorism. And we can now add pandemics to the list of things we could fear.

But do these things deserve to be in the position of the things we fear the most? The world is losing (if it has not lost it already) its fear of the One who deserves our fear the most! He is the Lord Jesus Christ! The world has misplaced its fear. People no longer even flinch at the name of Jesus, much less kneel before Him. For some reason, Jesus is brushed aside as being inconsequential. And yet, He is the One who sits in ultimate authority. He is the One who allows pandemics to happen ... or not. And He is the One who will call a stop to this pandemic when it suits Him to do so!

Jesus is the One we should fear. And yet He did not come into the world to make us afraid. He came into the world to take all of our fears away, especially the fear of death and the grave. He has conquered sin, death, and the devil ... our three greatest enemies. Since these have been conquered, there is no enemy who has power over us. We belong to God. We are His treasured possession. As Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans:

**"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

With Jesus came the Good News! The Gospel! Our sins have been paid for. We bear the righteousness of God by grace through faith. No one can snatch us out of our Father's hand!

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Jim