

# Sunday, December 6th, 2020

## Title: The First Noel

Text: Reading: Luke 2:8 - 20

### Introduction:

Review of the last Sunday's devotional:

God Will Not Forsake His Saints (from Psalm 37)

1. Fret Not (verse 1)
2. Trust in the Lord (verse 3)
3. Delight Yourself in the Lord (verse 4)
4. Commit Your Way to the Lord (verse 5)
5. Be Still Before the Lord (verse 7)
6. Turn Away from Evil (verse 27)
7. Wait for the Lord and Keep His Way (verse 34)

Friday, November 27, on my morning coffee break the song, The First Noel, came to my mind...and I realized I did not know the meaning of "Noel."

Here is what I found: The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary - Noel, an exclamation of joy used in Christmas carols (very shallow); Christianity.com - 1. Noel is "Christmas" in French, Joyeux Noel, 2. Noel can also mean "good news, coming from the French phrase *bonnes nouvelles*, 3. Noel can even mean birthday coming from the Latin "natalis."

The Etymology (the study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history) of the word Noel takes us, in the English, from a current and shallow meaning - an exclamation of joy in Christmas carols back to the French; where it meant Merry Christmas or Good News; and back further to Latin, "natalis" meaning birthday. There is some suggestion that the Latin came from the Hebrew word *ya-lad*, which means beget, bare, born, bring forth, child, birth. Reading: Luke 2:8 - 20

### 1. Noel, Good News – Born (Noel) This Day:

- 1.1) Luke 2:11, "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*"
- 1.2) Psalm 2:7, "*I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, 'you are my Son; today I have begotten (#3205 ya-lad) you.*"
- 1.3) Isaiah 7:14, "*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear (#3205 ya-lad) a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*"
- 1.4) Isaiah 9:6, "*For to us a child (#3206 ye-led) is born (#3205 ya-lad), to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*"

The angel announces to the shepherds that the centuries old prophecies of the Messiah, the Christ, have this day been fulfilled. Good News! Noel indeed!!!

### 2. Noel, Good News – of Great Joy:

Luke 2:10, "*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.'*"

2.1) Good news – fear not!  
Compare with Luke 2:9

2.2) Good news – of great JOY!  
Galatians 5:22 – 24, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy (#5479 chara), peace, patience, kindness, (23) goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*"  
Nehemiah 8:10, "*...for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*"

2.3) Good news – that will be for all the people.  
Romans 1:16, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel (#2098 euangelion – good news), for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*"

### 3. Noel, Good News – A Savior:

Luke 2:11, "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*"

~ Acts 5:31, "*God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*"

~ 2 Timothy 1:8 - 12

~ Titus 1:4, "*To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*"

~ 1 John 4:4, "*And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*"

~ Romans 5:1 – 2, "*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (2) through him we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*"

### Conclusion:

Consider the response of the angels in Luke 2:13 – 14  
Consider the response of the shepherds in Luke 2:15 – 20  
Consider the response of those who heard in Luke 2:18  
Consider the response of Mary in Luke 2:19  
Consider YOUR response!!