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Good News, Luke 2:10-11

By Aaron Shamp

Introduction

- It's interesting to place ourselves in the place of the shepherds in this passage to hear the angelic message.
 - We are all like the shepherds in that we hear the gospel message through an evangelist and must respond.
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What is the news?

- In 2018 a group of Thai soccer players were trapped in a flooded cave...
 - The documentary *The Rescue* shows the moment the divers reached them.
- The angels in Luke 2 are like the divers to the world. They are announcing rescue.
 - "Today in the city of David a *Savior* was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11).
 - What does that imply? You need a rescue.
- **Point:** The good news is the birth of the Savior to a world in need of rescue.
 - Now let's imagine this, the shepherds say, "Who said we needed a savior?"
 - Or the Thai soccer players said, "Who needs a rescue?"
- **APP:** Recognize that you need a rescue.
 - The angel's *evangel* is only for those who recognize that they need a rescue.
 - That's somewhat difficult for us to swallow. So, what makes it good?

What makes it good?

- The news of deliverance is only *good* if you were in a desperate situation.
 - Why does the angel declare “good news?” Because this Savior will rescue us from our sin.
- **Point:** The good news is that the Savior will deliverance us from our sin.
 - What is sin? Simply, sin is a rejection of the first commandment: “You shall have no other gods” (Ex. 20:3).
 - When we sin (no matter what it is), we are saying, “Me before you. Money before you. Sex before you. Power before you. Self-advancement before you. My glory before yours.”
 - At the heart of every sin is the sin beneath them all—pride.
 - What is the angel’s news? “You need rescue.” That’s a direct insult to our pride.
 - Imagine telling Michael Jordan, “I’ve got some good news for you...”
 - It’s also an affront to what our world teaches.
 - Why is God so concerned about our pride? God hates pride because it keeps us from great joy.
 - Pride makes you look *down* but to know God you have to look *up*. Knowing God is the heart of Christmas joy.
- **APP:** Confess your need for rescue.
 - Only those who recognize their pride for the hellish thing it is and confess it can be rescued.

What does it mean for us?

- The angel said a Savior was born. How does he save?
 - He was born to die. He saves us by taking our penalty upon himself.
- **APP:** Make room for him in your heart.
 - Repent of your pride. Die to yourself through prayer.