

**Intro**

~ The world is filled with sin, stress, sadness and sickness and this makes the world a hard place to live

~ While we're aware of our current world conditions the world has been filled with the same difficulties since the fall of man

~ In the opening stanza of "O Holy Night" Placide Cappeau captured world conditions in 1847 gave us the lyrics,

- Long lay the world in sin and error, pining
- 'Til He appeared and the soul felt it's worth,
- A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
- For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'

~ When we come to the New Testament we have a word of encouragement = REJOICE

~ We see this word rejoice being used often in the Nativity Account

~ Usages of rejoice in the Nativity Account

1 Lk 1:14 many will rejoice at the John the Baptist's birth

2 Lk 1:44 John the Baptist leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb

3 Lk 1:46,47 Mary's soul magnified the Lord and her spirit rejoiced in God her savior

4 Lk 2:9-11 Angel said rejoice

5 Matt 2:10 the wise men rejoiced when they saw the star

**Body**Reasons for rejoicing in the Nativity Passages

1 Lk 1:14 many will rejoice at the John the Baptist's birth

- The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that many would rejoice at John the Baptist's birth
- John the Baptist's ministry would prepare the way for the Messiah
- We can rejoice for the ministry of those that brings others to Christ

2 Lk 1:44 John the Baptist leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb

- When John the Baptist heard the voice of Mary from inside his mother's womb he leaped for joy
- The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that John would be filled with the HS from his mother's womb
- Was little John excited for Mary's visit or for the visit of the king of kings and Lord of Lords? Jesus
- We can rejoice when the Lord comes to us

3 Lk 1:46,47 Mary's soul magnified the Lord and her spirit rejoiced in God her savior

- Lk 1:47 rejoice (21 agalliao) to exult, to jump for joy
- Mary responded with praise for what God was doing
- Mary rejoiced in her savior who she would give birth to
- While Mary is the earthly mother she's able to recognize the one she gives birth to is God
- We can rejoice in what the Lord is doing and how he's using us

4 Lk 2:9-11 Angel said rejoice at the birth of Christ

- The birth of Christ is cause for joy because it's God's way of dealing with sin and man's fallen condition
- Oh Holy Night
  - Long lay the world in sin and error, pining
  - 'Til He appeared and the soul felt it's worth
  - A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
  - For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'
- We can rejoice at the incarnation of the Son of God
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
  - HARK! the Herald Angels sing
  - Glory to the new-born King!
  - Peace on Earth, and Mercy mild,
  - God and Sinners reconcil'd.
  - Joyful all ye Nations rise,
  - Join the Triumphs of the Skies;

- Nature rise and worship him,
- Who is born at Bethlehem.

5 Matt 2:10 the wise men rejoiced with great joy when they saw the star

- The wise men rejoiced when they saw the star that would lead them to Christ
- This is after the death of Herod and they were headed to Bethlehem. The star (glory of God) guided them to the location of the house where Jesus was living with his family
- This teaches us that God's leading is a source of rejoicing
- We can all remember a time when seeking God for guidance he showed us the right choice to make, the way to go, the door to walk through and when we received guidance from God it caused us to rejoice
- We can rejoice in God's leading

### Other Passages on Rejoicing

Rejoice when we're persecuted (Matt 5:10-12)

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Rejoice in God's will (Luke 10:21)

*In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight*

Rejoice during trials (James 1:2-4)

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Rejoice during trials (1 Peter 1:6-8)

*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

Rejoice in the glory of God's presence (Jude 24,25)

*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

- God's desire is for us to appear before his presence with joy and He does this by making it possible for us to not stumble or fall in our walk with the Lord into sin

### **Conclusion**

George Bailey rejoiced in "It's a Wonderful Life." When things turned bad because his uncle lost the bank's deposit

1 busted lip

2 wrecked car

3 bank debt

4 drafty house

5 door post that is loose

6 his kids

7 bank examiner

8 the warrant for his arrest

9 Merry Christmas to Mr. Potter

~ In the context of our sermon the birth of Christ is a chief source of joy

~ We need not be defeated, discouraged and doubtful by life – Because Christ is born and this is a game changer