

A Christmas Carol Series

Week 5 outline

12.24.23

Eph 1:7

The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

I. The Story Behind the Song Silent Night

- First sung in 1818 at the Church of Saint Nicholas in Oberndorf, Austria
- Written by Parish Priest Joseph Mohr
- Put to music by a guitarist in the village named Franz Gruber

II. The Message Behind the Music: Dawn of Redeeming Grace

Redemption: a release made effective by the payment of a ransom

- A. The means through which redemption has been achieved
 - "through his blood"*
 - Our release has been made effective by Christ's death on the cross
 - It has been paid in full
- B. The result in which redemption has been accomplished
 - "the forgiveness of sins"*
 - The reason we are in need of redemption is because of sin and its consequences.
 - The result of redemption means there is forgiveness
- C. The grounds for which redemption has been acquired
 - "in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he has lavished on us"*
 - Grace means that we are all fully undeserving, so there's nothing we have done that can make us deserve it less
 - Grace means there is nothing we can do, no good work, no merit, no good behavior or deed that can make us deserve it more

III. And It Came To Pass...

- The nativity story in Luke chapter 2 begins with the phrase "It came to pass"
- it means something like: to be accomplished
 - it's a word that marks the transition from one realm/condition to another
 - it's used for God's actions emerging from eternity and showing themselves in our physical space and time

CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION
OF THE DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE COMING TO PASS,
WHERE GOD'S PLAN EMERGED FROM ETERNITY
AND MADE ITSELF KNOWN IN OUR SPACE AND TIME