

## GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

### I. The comma matters!

### II. How do we find joyful rest in the child we celebrate at Christmas?

- We must know who Christ is
- We must know what He has done for us
- We must know what our response should be

#### A. Who is the Christ-child? We learn from Matthew 1:20-23 that Christ is:

- **Fully human:** God requires a sinless sacrifice and only a man can enter sympathetically into all experiences, trials, and temptation of man and be a perfect example.
- **Fully divine** because no mere human could bear and fully satisfy God's wrath. Jesus as God sets Him apart from every other religious leader who has lived. His resurrection proved that He is God.
- **With us.** God now lives in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. You carry God with you; but quite frankly, He mostly carries you!

#### B. What is His ministry to us and what should be our response?

##### 1. Christ came to proclaim good news to the poor

The object of this good news is the poor/afflicted. We must come to Him as beggars, recognizing that we are totally destitute without Him. He will meet you where you are starving and will fill you! Empty yourself of all you think you bring to the table – open your hand, your spirit, and your emotions. Allow Him to replace that emptiness with the life that can only be found in Christ.

We must become like \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. Christ came to proclaim release (liberty) to the captives**

We are captives of sin without the saving grace of Christ Jesus our Lord. You are held as in a prison – unable to break free. The dungeon of sin cannot be escaped in any other way than through Christ. This is the good news: Jesus is the way out!

We must believe in \_\_\_\_\_.

## **3. Christ provides recovery of sight to the blind**

Where do you need a miracle? Christ, who was born on Christmas day, is your miracle!

Ask God to give you a miracle. Scripture says we receive not because we don't ask. Simple! Ask and walk in faith – Christmas is about believing the impossible.

We must open ourselves to a \_\_\_\_\_!

## **4. Christ set the oppressed free**

Oppressed: that which is broken in pieces, shattered. This is us without Christ. The downtrodden and oppressed are those who are broken in pieces – shattered by the effects of sin and the ruler of this world – Satan.

- 1) Our struggle is not against flesh and blood: Eph. 6.10-17
- 2) We are the victors in this battle!

We must stand \_\_\_\_\_

## **III. Conclusion: Now is the year (time) of the Lord's favor, but you have to step into it!**

### **Christ has proclaimed the year of the Lord's favor**

The Messiah has come. He has broken into our existence! Today, marks the favorable time of the Lord for your life, but you must step into it!

### **Life Group Questions:**

- What should the good news mean for my life today?
- How can I rest joyfully in Christ?
- What should it mean for my life that the power of Satan has been broken?