

Christ Community Covenant Church
Fourth Man in the Fiery Furnace – The Joy of the Savior
Daniel 3:16 – 27; Luke 2:8 – 20
Pastor Curt Vogt - December 13, 2015

Opening Comments

Intro: Christophany Review – Theophany = God Appearance; Christophany = Bodily Appearance
God sightings pre-incarnation, in OT; Celebrating Immanuel – encounters for today

Two Stories: Daniel 3 – 3 guys in fiery furnace, 4th man appears
Luke 2 – Angels announce the birth of Jesus
Tell both stories...

Common to both stories: being saved, a savior – rescued, delivered

OT references to salvation – Psalm 51:12; Psalm 95:1; Isaiah 12:3
Salvation and Joy are intertwined

• **Restoring the Joy of Salvation**

Joy=more than happiness; deeper, fuller, more whole
From God, supernatural, eternal – a choice (compare with love, hope, peace)

• **Experiencing the Joy of the Savior**

(...”in this season and throughout our lives.”)

- 1) Acknowledge that you need saving (a Savior)
from fiery death (Daniel 3); from sin and spiritual death (Luke 2)
 - one time/first time (Romans 10: 9 & 13)
 - on going reminder (DC Talk song – “...I’m still a man in need of a Savior.”)
foundation for finding (restoring) joy
- 2) Expect Him in Unexpected Places
in the middle of the furnace; in the form of a baby, not the Messiah Jews were expecting
(illustration: 4Cs Christmas a few years ago, Don Read & I as angels “How’d He get in there?”)
joy in a pleasant surprise
- 3) Act in Faithful Obedience
absolutely key to Daniel 3 story - vs. 16 & 17; loosely for shepherds but then the whole NT
w/o obedience you can’t truly know the Savior, encounter Him, follow Him
obedience leads to joy

JOY - He is with us, He has saved us, “unspeakable joy”

Benediction

Community Group Study Questions:

- 1) What are some ways you hope to encounter Christ this Christmas season (and throughout your life)? What do you think is the significance of God being “with us” (Immanuel)?
- 2) Curt suggested the greatest source of joy is found in salvation/a savior. What other aspects of Jesus’ coming could bring joy?
- 3) Is it easy for you to admit that you need saving or rescuing? How do others respond when you tell them we all need a Savior?
- 4) What unexpected place (circumstance) have you encountered Jesus?
- 5) What keeps us from acting in obedience? What place does fear have in our disobedience?