

Christmas Message for a New Decade

Luke 2:1-20

The Message of Luke 2 for a New Decade

1. Do not be afraid (v.10)

- The message “fear not” appears 365 times in the Bible
- Genesis 15:1; 26:24; Deuteronomy 1:21; 20:3; 31:8; 2 Kings 6:16; Isaiah 41:13; 43:1; 54:4; Daniel 10:19; Luke 2:10; 5:10; 12:7; 12:32; Rev. 1:17

2. Live this next decade for God’s glory (vv.9,14,20)

- Westminster Catechism: “The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”
- To glorify God means to give God the worship and reverence which are His due (Isaiah 24:15; 25:3; Psalm 22:23; Daniel 5:23; Matthew 5:16)
- There are 5 primary ways that we glorify God:
 1. **Worshipping Him** (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 86:9)
 2. **Fellowshipping with His Family** (Ephesians 1:5; 3:21; Hebrews 2:10)
 3. **Becoming like Him** (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinth 3:18; Philippians 3:20-21)
 4. **Serving Others** (Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
 5. **Sharing our Faith** (Psalm 96:3; Romans 15:8-9)
- What could happen if we combined our time and talents and resources and faith and prayers and worked together over the next decade for His glory?

<i>Decade ending in...</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2019</i>
Place of worship	Mansion	2 nd Worship Ctr	?
Number of worshippers	800	4000	?
Number of POFs	200	1000	?
Daughter churches	0	2	?
Books of the Bible studied	3	25	?
Discipleship groups	20	120	?
Unreached People Groups	0	1	?
\$ Given to Missions	\$140,000	\$4,500,000	?

- Application – My New Decade Resolutions: I’m asking for God’s power to...
 1. Read through the Bible in 2010 (see pastors kiosk for SOAP journal)
 2. Share my faith with so-n-so (see postcard insert)
 3. Invite Christ into my life

Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. I believe that You rose from the dead. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Now, take control of the throne of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.

4. Other:
5. Pray for our military (“Letters from War” by Mark Schultz)