

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

THE JOY OF OBEDIENCE

Matthew 1:18-25

Jeff Schreve

While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed." But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

Luke 11:27-28

Have you entered into the joy of obeying God?

1. Sometimes we struggle to know what God wants us to do.

A. Circumstances can be heartbreaking and difficult.

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled. Hebrews 12:15

B. Keeping your heart sensitive to the Lord is critical.

Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. Hebrews 5:11

Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah. Psalm 62:8

2. We can be assured that God will show us what to do.

"If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself." John 7:17

A. His plan for us will never contradict His Word.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105*

B. His plan for us will always be for our good.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

3. We will be blessed when we do what He says to do.

And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Matthew 1:24-25

A. Obey the Lord immediately.

B. Obey the Lord completely.

*“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you **may be careful to do according to all that is written in it**; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”*

Joshua 1:8

C. Obey the Lord confidently.

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25

What is God telling you to do ... and what is your response?