

# “Do Not Be Afraid”

Based on Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

Christmas Eve, 2018

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

*Luke 2:8-10a*

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid.

† The phrase sent by God “Do not be afraid” appears 69 times in the Bible.

† I do not need to be afraid of God.

*Luke 2:10-11*

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

† God always brings me good news.

† It may not always be the news I want to hear, but it is always good for me.

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† When I focus on living my life as God wants, good comes.

† When I only focus on myself, I experience the bad.

*Luke 2:13-14*

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

† The birth of Jesus brings peace.

† The lesson God has for me is that I need to make, first of all, peace with God.

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† God through Jesus Christ is where peace begins, from world peace all the way to my inner peace.

† It is a peace that sets me free to be who God created me to be.

## Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† What am I afraid of?

Why am I afraid of this?

† Do I focus on bad news or good news?

† When have good things (blessings) come out of seemingly bad times for me?

† Who has God placed in my life to help me “not be afraid?”

† Whose life has God placed me in so they will “not be afraid”?