



## I. INTRO

- A. 21 days 'til Christmas!

**Luke 2:8-12 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

**Luke 2:13-14 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

- B. The hope of peace and goodwill
- Is a "Christmas truce" the best that we can expect?
- C. The problem with peace on earth and goodwill toward men is that it's not sustainable
- Humanity has proven that peace with others is impossible in its own strength

## II. PEACE ON EARTH STARTS WITH PEACE WITH HEAVEN

- A. The power of Christmas story is found in the glory of Easter story

**Colossians 1:19-20 (TPT)** <sup>19</sup> For God is satisfied to have all his fullness dwelling in Christ. <sup>20</sup> And by the blood of his cross, everything in heaven and earth is brought back to himself—back to its original intent, restored to innocence again!

- B. The importance of the virgin birth
- God put on flesh, entered into our human state, and accomplished our redemption

**Romans 5:8 (NKJV)** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- C. Because we have peace with God we can have goodwill toward all

**Romans 5:5 (NKJV)** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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## III. GOODWILL



### A. What is "Goodwill?"

- "a kindly feeling of approval and support: benevolent interest or concern." The synonyms listed include compassion, goodness, kindness, consideration, charity, cooperation, friendliness, thoughtfulness, and decency

### B. An interesting twist

- "Peace on earth and goodwill to all men" is actually a mistranslation that has been accepted and repeated without question over the years
- Who gets the "Peace on earth?"
  - **Luke 2:14 (NIV) ... and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**
  - **Luke 2:14 (HCSB) ... and peace on earth to people He favors!"**
  - **Luke 2:14 (NLT) ... and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."**
  - **Luke 2:14 (ASV) ... and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased."**

### C. Pleasing in His sight

- God's favor on the early church
- "a kindly feeling of approval and support: benevolent interest or concern."

**Acts 2:47 (NLT) all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.**

**Acts 2:47 (MSG) People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.**

### D. The liked what they saw?

**Matthew 5:14-18 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

## IV. LIGHTS IN DARKNESS

### A. A family church, teaching people to reach "their" world

- **Acts 8:5, 8 – He preached Christ and there was great joy in their city**