

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:11-20; 26-37

SINGING: 306:1-4 – 34:1-5 – 3:1, 4 – 72:1-4

OPENING THOUGHTS

- Which of the 'Ful' family members live in your heart?

- God's ministry through the angels is to counter Mr Fearful (Is. 7)
 - a. He lives in the ungodly

 - b. Yet he also often lives in the god-fearing

THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE OF 'FEAR NOT'

I. TO WHOM THEY BRING THIS MESSAGE II. THE REASON OF THIS MESSAGE

I. TO WHOM DO THE ANGEL BRING THE MESSAGE 'FEAR NOT'

- A. Good angels are God's servants serving in *numerous ways!*
 - 1. They serve in rejoicing about God's work (Job 38:7)

 - 2. They serve in defending access to Tree of life (Gen. 3:24)

 - 3. They rejoiced seeing Jesus stoop into human nature (Luke 2:14)

 - 4. They rejoice to see another sinner honoring God (Luke 15:10)

- B. Around the coming of Jesus Christ, the angel's visits increased
 - 1. Zachariah – Mary – Joseph – shepherds – seeking women
 - a. common message to them all: *Fear not!*

 - 2. But they are not sent to all men with this message of 'Fear not'
 - a. not to the world of unconcerned sinners (Luke 12:14)

 - b. but to the god-fearers in the world: what are they like?

 - c. yet these *God-fearers* often wrestle with Mr. Fearful within.

- C. Are you one of those *who fear God yet walk in darkness?*
 - 1. Do experience much opposition of Mr. Fearful and his company?

 - 2. The angel's message is the god-fearers: *Fear Not!*

 - 3. The opposite message is true for all *who don't fear God!*

II. THE REASON OF THIS MESSAGE OF THE ANGEL

- A. Though reasons differ for Zachariah – Mary – Joseph – shepherds, the main message is the same: *glad tidings of hope and salvation!*
1. for Zachariah:

 2. for Mary:

 3. for Joseph:

 4. for shepherds:
- B. What is the reason they may bring the message of *Fear Not* to sinners?
1. Because God's sending of His Son displays riches of His grace!

 2. Because God sending His Son makes provision to honor His justice
 - a. how does it honor His justice?

 - b. isn't the issue of His justice not the *real cause* of the fears?

APPLICATION:

- A. 'Fear not' trembling sinner: Behold, I bring your glad tidings!
1. He was born in Bethlehem in order to die on Golgotha
 - a. His death answered the hardest question: *How can a just God let a guilty sinner go free?*

 - b. the answer is *Fear Not for God made in Christ the provision in which He can be both just and yet the justifier of the guilty!*

Thoughts about the Gospel

The Gospel is for those who have done their best and failed.

The Gospel begins and ends with what God is,
not with what we want or think we need.

I bless my Lord and Master He has given me a Gospel
which I can take dead sinners,
a Gospel which is available for the vilest of the vile. (Spurgeon)