

It is good to rehear even the old, old stories. To be reminded of thoughts past and purposes visited. To be defined by expressions of our own and of others. It becomes even more enjoyed and enrapturing when we revisit the thoughts of others that we have made our own. To revisit that moment where we decide that the other's thought is to be our own and the life we now have, being in the other's thoughts.

It is at this time that we come to revisit the thoughts of God. To review the words God has given us that tell us the extent God went through to make us one of His own. It is a wonderful story. It is a well appreciated story that we can never get weary of. As told by Luke chapter 2 verses 4 through 14, these are the words of God:

- (4) Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,
- (5) in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.
- (6) While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.
- (7) And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
- (8) In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.
- (9) And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.
- (10) But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;
- (11) for today in the city of David there has been for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- (12) This will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
- (13) And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
- (14) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

The story is that unto us a savior was born, who IS Christ, the Lord! Our Christ, our Lord, lived a storied life. When asked if He was indeed the Christ He replied (Matt 11: 5-6) "The blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

But! But the world, generally, did take offense at Him. He upset the status quo and was labeled an outcast and a provocateur. He was falsely arrested, falsely tried, falsely convicted and falsely sentenced to death. Our Lord. The Christ.

His close circle of followers tried to shield Him and tell Him to stop His ministry before anything happened but He told them, "For this purpose I've come into this world (Jn 12:27)" He hung on a cross between two thieves in an agonizing death. He called out, "My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me? (Mt 27:46)" And finally said, "It is finished. (Jn 19:30)"

His glorious resurrection and assurance to make us like Him in eternity is the story that compels. The story that we have made a part of our lives. We have already read the ending to this wonderful story of us, our lives and God's own calling to Himself. As recorded in Revelation 19:6 "I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder saying, Hallelujah! The Lord God Omnipotent reigns for ever and ever!" Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

The story of our live is that now we live in God's story. His thoughts. His words. And they are now ours. We come together to be at one with Our Lord and Christ at His table. To partake in this loaf and cup in remembrance of Him and His life. This is His command. This is His desire for us. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.