

Pondering and Treasuring Christ

Luke 1-2

Pastor/Elder Phil Layton, GCBC: Dec. 20, 2020

no manuscript notes, just outline this week

Intro: 2020: 3 “**Fear Not**” statements? 3 statements of Mary *pondering/treasuring* things of Christ.

Big idea: Luke (by the Spirit) wants us to ponder and treasure God’s grace and glory and gospel

Outline:

1. Ponder the grace of God with us (1:26-38)
2. Treasure the glory of God becoming one of us (2:13-19)
3. Marvel at the growth and life of Christ for us (2:40-51)

1. Ponder the grace of God with us (READ TEXT, 1:26-38)

- Compare Eph 1:1-6, same word “favored” in Lk 1 (app: do you know this grace?)
- Mary wasn’t full of grace and doesn’t give grace, she needed it (v. 30, 38, 46-50)
- Compare Luke 11:27-28 (application: do you come to hear the Word and obey it?)
- Mark 3:31-35 (application: ponder the grace of being family, ponder His grace)

2. Treasure the glory of God becoming one of us (READ 2:13-19)

- *Glory to God in the highest* is in the lowest place, from splendor to swaddling cloths
- Not mansions of glory – a manger. God in a trough to feed animals that He created!
- The God who never slumbers or sleeps becomes a little one needing to sleep
- “Away in a manger ... the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes?”
- Ponder moms Jesus wept, at inconvenient times, needed late feedings, diaper changes
- Jesus is with you in those times and in His humanity He can identify in every way
- Mary did you know ... walk on water ... make you new ... sight to blind man ... walked where angels trod, when you kiss your little baby you kiss the face of God?

3. Marvel at the growth and life of Christ for us (READ v. 40-52)

- He didn’t stay a baby, He grew into a young man and Mary pondered again
- The rabbis marveled at His understanding, His parents astonished He was there
- “I need to be about my Father’s house / business” (God’s Son, life about His work)
- Mary didn’t understand but kept / treasured (older as He taught rabbis in the temple?)
- Did she ponder when He cleansed the temple or called Himself the temple to rebuild?
- Pondered what she heard in the same temple in v. 35 from Simeon about the baby?
- “Nails, spears, shall pierce Him through / hail, hail the Word made flesh” (Jn 1:14)
- Mary pondered all this again on the cross, ponder His care for her as He was dying
- Ponder His growing in v. 52 and His perfect life lived for us, obedient in every way

He who made Uranus and Venus became a fetus ... who knew it ... swimming in amniotic fluid

... See the One who never tires knocked out sleeping, the source of eternal joy weeping?

...[He] who made thunder and rain now has hunger pains?

See the Creator of water become thirsty, on the cross when He saves...the unworthy

...I ought to cry “Why?” ... when the Author of Life dies (*by Shai Linne*)

Christmas hymns: Fall on your knees ... O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him

Gospel conclusion: Is your heart loving Him and enthroning Him? Is He your king and your salvation? Is He your treasure? If not, treasure His glory, ponder His grace, and marvel at how He grew and lived for you. Make much of Christ this Christmas. Magnify, may He grow bigger, may we **rejoice in our Savior!**