

O Come All Ye Faithful – Luke 2:8-20

“O Come All Ye Faithful Joyful and Triumphant” – What an invitation to kick off the advent season! What a call to step into the story once again and be awed by the wonder of it all. This is why I love the Christmas season!

“O Come” is a call to action, to do something, to respond to an invitation!

The Biblical account of the advent of Jesus, reveals many who responded to such an invitation to “come!” Song – “God Is With Us”

- Mary – “O come O Mary come, highly favored one. To give birth to a son, the Christ, our Savior, God’s Son.”
- Joseph – “O come O Joseph come, don’t divorce, just trust in the Lord. And raise this boy as your son, for He is God’s chosen One.”
- Heavenly Hosts – “O come O Heavenly Host, and proclaim the Savior’s birth. He is Christ the Lord, the Savior has come to earth.”
- Shepherds – “O come O shepherds come, who watch their flocks by night. Behold this glorious sight, come to Bethlehem this night.”
- Wise men – “O come O wise men come, from the East to seek a king. Bearing gifts and offering, and from Herod’s plot they flee.”
- All are welcome – “So come all, worship and sing, Glory to the newborn King. All heaven and earth proclaim, the Name that’s above all names.”

The invitation extends beyond just those who were there at Jesus’ advent. “O Come All Ye Faithful” is a call to all those willing to take a step of faith.

Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen.” Is this true in your life?

Where does your assurance lie? Your senses? Your experience? Science?

Where does your conviction lie? God’s Word, the great cloud of witnesses?

How is this definition of faith - living out of your assurance & conviction, evidenced in your life? - Church attendance? Scripture reading? Small groups? Prayer? Serving others? What about in your joy & triumph?

Our Christmas carol this morning says, “O Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant.” Where is your joy in Christ? Where is your sense of triumph?

If our joy is built upon the things of this world, there will be no lasting joy!

If our success & status is built upon our own accomplishments, it won’t last!

Our joy & triumph are found in the same place our faith is found – In Christ!

Joy is not a choice, it’s a gift! Triumph... is not a choice, it’s a gift! Faith is not a choice, it’s a gift! There is no room for boasting, except for in Christ!

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Faith is not our gift to God, but God’s gift to us!

All that we have been given in Christ, in His advent, is all that we will ever need to have eternal joy! - Forgiveness, reconciliation, new birth, second chances, eternity w/God, it is all ours in Christ!

All that has been accomplished on our behalf, in Christ, is where our triumph is found! We are children of God, eternal heirs of God’s Kingdom!

You see Christmas is not a time to do more to prove our faith worthy of God’s blessing, it’s a time to receive the promise of God again in Christ, and cherish Him all the more for what He has already made a reality in our lives!

This is why the refrain of the song is “O Come let us adore Him, O Come let us adore Him, O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

Adoration, praise, worship, thanksgiving is what this season is all about, b/c Jesus is everything for us, therefore He’s worthy of such a response from us!

So let us join in with Mary, Joseph, the Heavenly Hosts, shepherds, wise men, and “come all, worship and sing, Glory to the newborn King. All heaven and earth proclaim, the name that’s above all names!”

For Luke Ch. 2 reminds us, at the advent of Jesus, that the Angel of the Lord declared, “For I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people!”

Great joy & triumph are ours, because of what we celebrate at Christmas, so truly celebrate it this year, come & adore Him, “come all ye faithful!”

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