

Study Guide

Monday, December 14- Friday, December 18

Monday, December 14. Read Luke 2:8-15. What a birth announcement! The shepherds were terrified, but their fear turned to joy as the angels announced the Messiah's birth. First the shepherds ran to see the baby; then they spread the word. Jesus is *your* Messiah, *your* Savior. What does having a Savior mean to you? Do you see the need in your own life for a Savior? This week we will review what we are saved from, what we are saved for, and what we are saved by.

Tuesday, December 15. Read Matthew 1:21 and 1 John 1:8. We know we need a Savior because we need to be saved from our sin. In the announcement to Joseph, the angel let him know the reason Jesus came. What do we know about sin? We know the word literally means missing the mark. We try and try, but can't seem to hit our target. Our target is perfect living – which in the words of John Wesley means loving perfectly. Loving God and loving others. Now most of us realize that sin is really doing what we want to do rather than what God wants us to do. This causes a separation from God. Because of this separation we need a way to re-connect with God. That way is Jesus. Based on what you have heard and know about Jesus, how does this happen?

Wednesday, December 16. Read 2 Timothy 1:9. We are saved for a purpose and that purpose is to live a holy life. You can live your life at three levels: The survival level; the success level; or the significance level. At times all of us have just tried to survive. We've had events happen in our life where we just want to make it one more day. Then we have tried to just be successful. That's when we think it's all about what I have done or what I need to do. But the highest level we can live is the significance level. This is when our lives have purpose. This is when we are fulfilled. The two greatest days in a person's life are the day they were born and the day they discover why they were born. By knowing and seeking God, you will find your purpose in this life.

Thursday, December 17. Read Ephesians 1:7-8. In the NIV translation, we see the word "lavished" in reference to God's grace. Lavished means to expend or give in great amounts without limitations. This means God's grace will never run out. There is always enough. There is no sin that it will not cover. The reason God can pour out his grace on us is because he knows what we are going through and have gone through. **Read Hebrews 4:15-16.** Don't miss the point that you can draw near to Him. Don't be afraid to call on Him because you are saved BY grace.

Friday, December 18. Read Acts 16:16-34. This is a great story for all of us to remember and use as an example of what God can do in and for us all. When the jailer realized his own true condition and need, he risked everything to find the answer. The Good News of salvation is simply expressed: Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. When we recognize Jesus as Lord and trust in him with our entire life, salvation is assured to us. If you have never trusted in Jesus to save you, do it now. Your life can be filled with joy, just as the jailer's was.