

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent- Joy God's Joyful "Outside the Box" Greatest Gift

Text: Luke 2:6-20

Pastor Perry Kallis

Big Idea: The "out-of-the-box" way God wrapped the events of the first Christmas points us to His eternal gift of truth and intended personal transformation of our lives.

The "out of the box" ingredients of God's truth about Christmas:

1) The <u>recipients</u> of God's "out-of-the-box" gifts.

The first recipient of the Christmas message is a declaration that no matter who you are, you matter to God.

2) The <u>reporters</u> of God's "out-of-the-box" gift.

3) The response to God's "out-of-the-box" gift.

God most often works through the unexpected <u>changes</u> in our lives, rather than through our carefully orchestrated efforts to keep everything the same!

Christmas is not about what we **hope for** or what we **feel**, but about **who** we continue to hope in.

The surpassing value of Christmas is more than the wrapping of "knowing ourselves to be saved" but rather in being able to "know the **Jesus** who saves us."

Personal Application - Study Questions:

- What are some specific ways that the uniqueness of 2020 could have prepared you to make this Christmas more about Christ than about the wrappings?
- How does it affect your attitude toward others, knowing that the lesson of the shepherds means everyone matters to God?
- Name a current, personal great fear in your life. How does the Good News of the arrival of the Savior speak truth to that fear?
- God works more often through life's changes rather than through efforts to prevent them. How might that truth give me perspective about the past 12 months?

