

## On the way to Christmas. (Pg.#2)

**Continuing in Luke 2:12-14...** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, (14) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

-- **Q5. In Vs.14 the angel states...** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he \_\_\_\_\_!" (Fill in the blanks.)

– gained donations.  – has preferred.  – is pleased.

**This begs a question: How do you please God?**

**SEE: 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:21-23** Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (22) and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. (23) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

-- **Q6. We find that two things are listed here for us to do if we wish to please God.- What are they?**

– Believe in His Son Jesus Christ.  – Pay your tithe.  – Love one another.

**So, who can believe in Jesus as the Lord and Savior?**

**SEE: John 3:16-17...** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

-- **Q7. Who can believe in Jesus as the Lord and Savior?**

– Everyone.  – Anyone.  – All the nations of the world.

**Back to the Christmas account from Luke 2:15-20...** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." (16) And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. (17) And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. (18) And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. (19) But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. (20) And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

-- **Q8. Now, trying to remember the biases of Bible times... Why do you think God would choose for His only begotten Son to be born in a stable?**

– To send a message of salvation for all people.  – To exclude the rich from salvation.

-- **Q9. Did God also call the rich upper classes to seek the newborn Savior?**

– No, because they couldn't find room for Mary and Joseph.  – Yes, God also called the Magi.

**SEE: Matthew 2:1-2...** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, (2) saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

**In closing... God's will was for the Messiah, Jesus, to come from the line of a former Canaanite prostitute, and also from the line of Ruth, a foreign woman of Moab...**

-- **Q10. To discuss the original question, "What do you think God might be trying to communicate to us about our ideas of prejudice and cultural pride?"**

**- Can you think of other instances where Jesus broke the rules of common cultural prejudices?**

*For example: Matthew 8:1-4... John 8:3-11... John 4:4-10... Mark 3:31-35...*