

The Joy of Christmas
Preparation: A Work of God in the Heart

Luke 1:5-25 & 57-80
Sunday, December 4, 2022

Who's Your One? (praying, seeking, sharing, inviting)
Give an ***invite card*** - cards & tracts are in the foyer.

"...in your presence there is fullness of joy."

- Psalm 16:11

"Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel."

- Psalm 22:3

A Work of Preparation in the life of Zechariah:

I. Preparing for joy starts with a _____ and _____ heart (Luke 1:5-7).

Obedient, blessed, yet hurting...

Punishment for sin or the plans of God?

II. Preparing for joy requires _____ the sin of an _____ heart (Luke 1:8-23).

Do circumstances lead you to "hold back" from God?

The Altar of Incense – Exodus 30:1-10

- Vs. 10, *"most holy to the Lord."*

Zechariah's revealing response...

God is offended when His Word is not believed, when His power is questioned, or when His character is misrepresented.

There are consequences to unbelief:

If we don't truly believe God's Word...

**III. Preparing for joy requires the _____ and _____ of God
_____ to the heart (Luke 1:57-66).**

Mercy: Not giving you what you deserve.

Grace: Giving you what you do not deserve.

**IV. Preparing for joy _____ in _____ from the heart
(Luke 1:68-79).**

Praise. Faith. Belief. The changed heart of Zechariah.

Unbelief robs God of praise and His people of joy.

What do you need to do to prepare for the joy of Christmas?

Next Steps:

1. If this is your first worship experience at HHBC, let us know and tell us how we can pray for you or answer any questions. Send us a message on Facebook or e-mail at info@hhbc.org.
2. How much do you know about the Gospel? Do you have questions about Christianity or your own spiritual condition? If so, please e-mail or call Pastor Gene this week (cell: 864.616.5899 or gene@hhbc.org).
3. Join us on Wednesday @ **6:00** for **Dinner with Lottie Moon!**