

## Choosing Christmas:

### Fear vs. Peace

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)  
<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register.*

*<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.*

*Luke 2:1-8 (NIV)*

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*

*Luke 2:9 (NIV)*

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*

*Luke 2:10 (NIV)*

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Luke 2:11-12 (NIV)*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

*Luke 2:13-14 (NIV)*

*All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.*

*<sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him.*

*God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. <sup>17</sup> And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world.*

*<sup>18</sup> Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us.*

*1 John 4:15-18 (NLT)*

**APPLICATION =**

**JESUS CAME TO BRING \_\_\_\_\_, NOT \_\_\_\_\_, TO \_\_\_\_\_.**