

Christmas

Christ's Response to Terrorism

12/13/15

Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;

¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² "And this *will* be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there appeared 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 men with whom He is pleased."

Christ-focused Responses to Terrorism:

1. Worship

Habakkuk 3:16 I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise *who will invade us*.

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, *Though* the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls,

¹⁸ Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ The Lord God is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

2. Trust

Hebrews 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet without sin*.

¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

3. Missions

1 Timothy 1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

4. Witness

2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

5. Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

² for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

6. Love

Romans 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

²⁰ "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

7. Justice

Romans 13:1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

² Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same;

⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

8. Compassion

Hebrews 13:1 Let love of the brethren continue.

² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

³ Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

9. Courage

1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

10. Contrition

2 Chronicles 7:13 "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people,

¹⁴ and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

11. Study

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

¹⁴ For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,

¹⁵ who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men,

¹⁶ hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

12. Thanksgiving

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness.

All Scripture is from the NASV