

THE RELUCTANT ANGEL

Luke 2:8-14 with Romans 1:14-16

We are called to be messengers of God's great gospel news to all of those around us

I. THE REALITY OF ANGELS

A. ANGELS ARE GOD'S HEAVENLY MESSENGERS

1. Their Name: The Greek "angelo" translates into our English word "messenger"
2. Their Nature: See Heb. 1:6 & 14
3. Their Nativity Notices
 - a. Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would be the forerunner of Christ
- Note Luke 1:11-20
 - b. Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear the Messiah - Luke 1:26-38
 - c. An unnamed angel made several announcements to Joseph
- See Matt. 1:18-21; 2:13-15 and 2:19-23
 - d. Angels announced Christ's birth to shepherds - Luke 2:8-14

B. ANGELS ARE GOD'S HONEST MESSENGERS

- Telling others what they need to know

C. ANGELS ARE SOMETIMES HUMAN MESSENGERS

1. "To the angel of the church" probably refers to pastors and not heavenly beings
- See Revelation 2-3
2. Today God uses people to announce His message and not heavenly beings
- Consider Acts 10:1-8 as an example

II. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANNOUNCERS - Romans 1:14-16

- Believers are God's human messengers honestly telling others what they need to know.

A. OBLIGATION (14)

1. Paul's Situation
 - A responsibility to teach all without discrimination
2. Our Assignment
 - a. The mission - See Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8 and I Thess. 2:4
 - b. The question: How are we doing at fulfilling our mission?
 - c. The reality: *We must not be reluctant announcers* (angels)

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B. PREPARATION (15)

1. Paul's Eagerness
 - A ready herald ... eager to proclaim the gospel
2. Our Earnestness
 - a. Be prepared to proclaim - Rom. 10:14
 - b. We are Christ's ambassadors making God's appeal to the lost - II Cor. 5:20
3. Our Eagerness
 - a. What are we prepared to talk about?
 - b. We must be prepared to tell others about Christ
 - c. ***We must not be reluctant announcers*** (angels)

C. DETERMINATION (16)

1. Unashamed of the Gospel
 - a. The gospel is God's good news
 - Note Peter's boldness in Acts 4:8-12
 - b. The gospel is scorned by the world - I Cor. 1:18
2. Fully assured of its power
 - a. Divine dynamite - See Acts 26:18
 - b. Divine deliverance to everyone who believes - Rom. 10:13
3. Faithfully proclaiming this message
 - ***We must not be reluctant announcers*** (angels)

CONCLUSION:

We wouldn't have Christmas without angel announcements

- Then too we wouldn't have Christians without believers announcements!

What are you saying this Christmas?

- Might we be God's human messengers (angels) honestly telling others what they need to know about Jesus the Savior.

Don't be a reluctant angel!

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