

*Aching Anticipation*  
*Anticipation Actualized*



*“For the creation waits with eager longing FOR THE REVEALING OF THE SONS OF GOD”*

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:8-20)

# 1. Anticipation Actualized

- What was the good news?
- The good news was that the Messiah or Savior that had been prophesied about throughout the Old Testament is here to destroy the enemies of God, and relieve the ache through the forgiveness of sins.

# 1. Anticipation Actualized

- To Whom is the News For?
  - “...Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all THE people.”
  - “the people” is a reference to the people of Israel.
  - “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among THOSE WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED.”
  - Jews, wherever they may live for peace has no geographical boundary.

# 1. Anticipation Actualized

- To Whom is the News For?
  - “for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of ALL PEOPLES.”
  - The Good News is pronounced to the people from whom the Messiah came to liberate, His people from their sins.
  - BUT the scope of God’s salvation plan before the foundation of the earth is to include people from all nations.

## 2. Active Anticipation part 2

- The message of the Gospel is for all of the nations and WE are to take it there.

## 2. Active Anticipation part 2

“And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.” (22-23)

- Mercy implies seeing someone who is in great need and moving towards them with compassion in order to help. This is how God moved towards us.
- Likewise, when we see people who do not believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior to their ache, we move to them with compassion prepared with the Gospel, and a loving relationship that sees them as a person in need and not a project.

## 2. Active Anticipation part 2

“And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.” (22-23)

- Move with mercy towards those who have been led astray by false teachers, and who have told them to give into their pleasures.
- If we are to be faithful in sharing the good news, we are going to have to be loving with our actions in order for our words to be heard.

## 2. Active Anticipation part 2

- A part of active anticipation is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ that we have believed and experienced, so that others can believe and experience Him as well.

# Application

- *Like the shepherds, God has called you to this proclamation of the gospel, not because of who you are, but because of your humble and faithful obedience.*
- *The most loving thing we can do for others that we have compassion for is not to leave them as they are, but to move towards them with the truth of the Gospel.*

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