

Luke 2:20 – “The shepherds returned”
Matt. 2:11-18 – v. 12 – “they returned to their country (by another way)”
MAINTAINING CHRISTMAS JOY

I. THE _____ TO CHRISTMAS JOY

A. Wise Men

B. Shepherds

C. Joseph and Mary

II. THE INGREDIENTS OF CHRISTMAS JOY (what Christmas gives us)

A. New view of _____.

Longfellow – “Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not its goal. Dust thou art, to dust returneth, was not spoken of the soul.”

If we do “everything” to the glory of God, we will find purpose and meaning in our lives.

B. New perspective on our _____
“whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord.”

C. New confidence in God’s _____ (Heb. 4:15,16 KJV)

D. New commitment to Christ
This is where maintaining Christmas Joy begins – “O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to me I pray. Cast out my sin and enter in. Be born in me today.”

III. MAINTAINING CHRISTMAS JOY (Hugh Litchfield)

A. There is suffering in the world but also a God Who comes to _____ it.
Heb. 4:15,16

B. There is uncertainty in the world, but also a God Who helps us _____ it.
Jesus is Emmanuel, “God WITH us!”

C. There is _____ in the world, but also a God Who overcomes it!

