

SERMON NOTES

December 3, 2017

AND CEASE THE STRIFE

THINKING CLEARLY

Christmas Carol. Midnight Clear

*“Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats, Through all the weary world.
And man at war with man hears not, The love song which they bring.
O hush the noise and cease the strife, And hear the angels sing.”*

CLOUDY OR CLEAR?

Luke 2:8-12 *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

❶ A Deafening _____

*“And man at war with man hears not,
the love song which they bring”*

❷ A Quiet _____

“O hush the noise, And cease the strife”

❸ An Angelic _____

*“Glory to God in the highest, Glory to God evermore
Good news, Great joy for all, Melody breaks through the silence
Christ, the Savior is born! Jesus, the love song of God!”*

CEASE TO SEE

* _____ Midnight, _____ Clear _____

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN CLEAR THINGS UP

“...many of Jesus’ disciples turned back & no longer followed Him.” (John 6:66)
All references taken from The New International Version of the Bible unless noted.

SERMON NOTES

December 3, 2017

AND CEASE THE STRIFE

THINKING CLEARLY

Christmas Carol. Midnight Clear

*“Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats, Through all the weary world.
And man at war with man hears not, The love song which they bring.
O hush the noise and cease the strife, And hear the angels sing.”*

CLOUDY OR CLEAR?

Luke 2:8-12 *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

❶ A Deafening _____

*“And man at war with man hears not,
the love song which they bring”*

❷ A Quiet _____

“O hush the noise, And cease the strife”

❸ An Angelic _____

*“Glory to God in the highest, Glory to God evermore
Good news, Great joy for all, Melody breaks through the silence
Christ, the Savior is born! Jesus, the love song of God!”*

CEASE TO SEE

* _____ Midnight, _____ Clear _____

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN CLEAR THINGS UP

“...many of Jesus’ disciples turned back & no longer followed Him.” (John 6:66)
All references taken from The New International Version of the Bible unless noted.

GOALS FOR 2017

① **Generosity** - To develop an attitude and atmosphere of generosity in our lives and in our church.

- Being generous with our TIME, TALENTS and TREASURES.

Psalms 112:5 *Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.*

☺ Email Pastor Evan thru-out the year with your stories of how God has used you to be generous. evan2300@yahoo.com

② **Anything** - Challenge ourselves to say, "God I'll do **anything** you ask."

Isaiah 6:8 *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*
parallels the Our Father Jesus told is to pray

☺ We will start with small challenges and expand to bigger, all encompassing, challenges thru-out the year.

③ **Media Sharing and Encouragement** - Pictures & videos downloaded to a central site where they will be edited and shown in our services.

Philippians 1:7 *It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.*

☺ Take pictures or videos whenever you're at a church event, then upload them to the website in the program.

④ **Children's Ministry** - We want to breathe new life and excitement into our Children's Ministry.

Matt. 19:13-15 *...people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them & pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.*

☺ Pray about volunteering in our children's ministry in 2017

⑤ **Social Media Guru** - Put someone on staff that will keep our church current with social media.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

☺ We will use Social Media to help make our church known.

⑥ **A Christmas offering for a missionary family** – At Christmas time we will practice less gift giving to each other, and then use the money we save to support one of our Missionaries.

* **Make it personal**

GOALS FOR 2017

① **Generosity** - To develop an attitude and atmosphere of generosity in our lives and in our church.

- Being generous with our TIME, TALENTS and TREASURES.

Psalms 112:5 *Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.*

☺ Email Pastor Evan thru-out the year with your stories of how God has used you to be generous. evan2300@yahoo.com

② **Anything** - Challenge ourselves to say, "God I'll do **anything** you ask."

Isaiah 6:8 *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*
parallels the Our Father Jesus told is to pray

☺ We will start with small challenges and expand to bigger, all encompassing, challenges thru-out the year.

③ **Media Sharing and Encouragement** - Pictures & videos downloaded to a central site where they will be edited and shown in our services.

Philippians 1:7 *It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.*

☺ Take pictures or videos whenever you're at a church event, then upload them to the website in the program.

④ **Children's Ministry** - We want to breathe new life and excitement into our Children's Ministry.

Matt. 19:13-15 *...people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them & pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.*

☺ Pray about volunteering in our children's ministry in 2017

⑤ **Social Media Guru** - Put someone on staff that will keep our church current with social media.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

☺ We will use Social Media to help make our church known.

⑥ **A Christmas offering for a missionary family** – At Christmas time we will practice less gift giving to each other, and then use the money we save to support one of our Missionaries.

* **Make it personal**