Introduction: It started out as any other night on the Judean hills. Just an ordinary night, ordinary shepherds and ordinary sheep. Probably these shepherds had herded their sheep into the fold and lay across the door to settle in for a night of sleep. The shepherd no doubt closed his eyes as he had done countless times waiting for the morning light. But when the message of God arrives on the scene that which is ordinary becomes miraculous. Note four facts by way of introduction.

(1) Amazing Scene…v. 9
   A. Appearance of the Angel
   B. Apprehension of the Shepherds

(2) Authentic Salutations…vs. 10-12
   *Authentic means trustworthy, authorities, factual.
   A. The Message…v. 10
   B. The Miracle…v. 11
   C. The Mandate…v. 12

(3) Awesome Sight…vs. 13-14
A. The Praise…v. 13

B. The Proclamation…v. 14

(4) Amazing Statement…v. 15

*…Which the Lord has made known unto us!

- It is amazing how God has chosen to reveal Himself to man

- It is also amazing who God has chosen to reveal Himself to. The scripture is filled with the accounts of ordinary men and women that God choose to send the Good News.

- Let’s say for just a moment that you were responsible for choosing the WELCOMING TEAM that would be the first to greet the Son of God as he made His entrance into the world. What type of people would you choose to be on the welcoming committee? Theologians, politicians, business leaders, community leaders?

I. THE RECIPIENTS HE CHOOSE

*It is very significant that the good news was first delivered to the shepherds.

A. Occupation…Their occupation had fallen on hard times. What was once looked upon as a noble trade was now looked upon with contempt.

B. Opinion…The Jews looked upon the occupation of a shepherd with disrespect, disdain and disregard. The testimony of a shepherd was not even allowed in formal proceedings of the Jewish court. On the Sabbath they could not enter the synagogue due to ceremonial uncleanness.

II. THE REASONS FOR THE CHOICE

- God would from now on be nearest to the people that others despised.

- Let’s go back for just a moment. In choosing your welcoming committee, would you include yourself? If you say not likely…THEN YOU HAVE JUST PLACED YOURSELF IN THE CLASS OF PEOPLE THAT GOD HAS MOST CONSISTENTLY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE REVEALED HIMSELF TO!

III. THE REVELATION OF CHRIST

*Jesus came to bring the good news of Christmas to your heart.

A. Christmas is a time to Release my Fears…v. 10
B. Christmas is a time to Receive Forgiveness…vs. 11-12

C. Christmas is a time to Renew my Faith…vs. 16-20

*Those shepherds went away different from the manger. That is what worship does; it transforms us from the inside.

D. Christmas is a time to Rebuild Families (Relationships)