

Week 52  
355/10

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... greatly afraid ...”**  
*Luke 2:9*

The shepherds living out in the fields were greatly afraid at the appearance of an angel of the Lord. Of course the angel told the shepherds not to fear. That is, the shepherds weren't to fear the sudden appearance of the angel, but what about the message. There is an inherent fear or reverence, or should be, with respect to the message of the angel – for the gospel sake.

That first Christmas morning revealed the gospel message in the flesh. The event was the fulfillment of a long awaited prophecy. These shepherds knew it and rejoiced because of it. They made “widely known” the gospel to everyone who would hear them.

What about shepherds today? Do shepherds today fear and revere the preaching of the gospel? Of course respect for the proclamation of the gospel should grip every believer, but especially the pastor/shepherd. It seems more important to do so today, and every day, than on that first Christmas.

What is interesting is that the shepherds in the fields that night were immediately startled by an angel of the Lord, but quickly recovered to go see Jesus Christ and to subsequently proclaim what was most important, the good news. Whereas today it seems that pastors/shepherds are immediately struck with the importance of the good news of Jesus Christ only to subsequently settle in to proclaim the importance of angels, miracles, natural mysteries and personal felt needs over that of, or at least in strong competition with, the gospel message.

Pastors need to develop a healthy fear of proclaiming the gospel. Or maybe they need to be fearful that they are not preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, but something that competes with it. Biblical reverence for Jesus Christ will bring biblical reverence to preach the gospel. The shepherds on that night were impacted with the significance of the gospel message and to spread it everywhere. Pastors/shepherds today need to be impacted or reimpacted with the significance of the gospel message and with a renewed reverence proclaim Jesus Christ as if they were greatly afraid.