

—Luke 2:8-16

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"  
So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

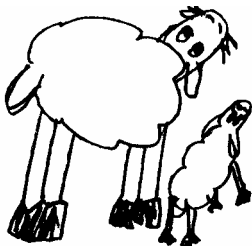
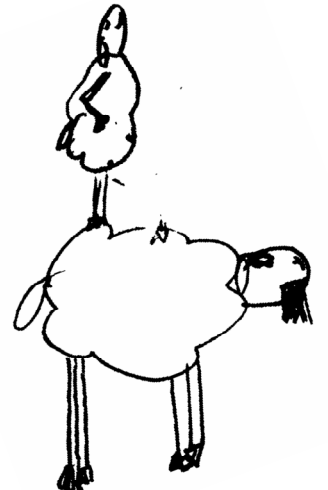
Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling

cloths, lying in a manger."  
And the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.  
As they were looking on, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and over their flock by night. And behold, an herd of living out in the fields, keeping watch over there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

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# Is it Too Cold for Christmas?



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## Too Cold for Christmas?

Some doubt that Christmas could have been on December 25<sup>th</sup>, because it would have been too cold. The sheep, however, with their God-given woolen coats, might beg to differ—as would the rugged shepherds!  
Actually, the sheep were likely temple sheep, raised for sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem. They would have been in the fields year round.<sup>1</sup>

It is not a big deal if we're a little off on the date of Jesus' birth (after all, someone can be important to us, even if we miss his or her birthday!).

The debate may raise a question for us all, however. Not whether December is too cold for Christmas, but whether our hearts are too cold for Christ.

Our prosperity and comforts may well have caused us to crowd out our sense of need for the Savior. Superficially, we bristle at the suggestion that we are sinners. But how do we feel in the quiet, when we are alone with ourselves?

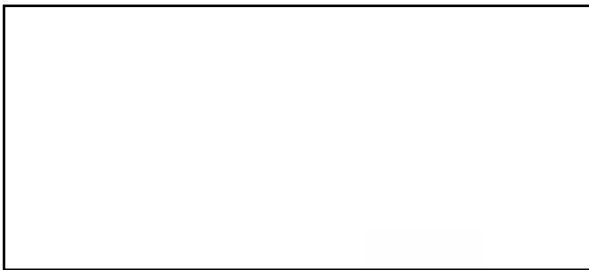
Just as Jesus came into this cold world of sin, He can come into our cold hearts by faith. "I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

How warm are you to receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior?

From our family to yours, may you have a blessed holiday!



These thoughts are brought to you by your neighbors,



<sup>1</sup> See Edersheim, *Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Ch. 6, text