

## Emotions of Christmas

*Then the angel said unto them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.—Luke 2:10*

As we celebrate Christmas we experience many different emotions. We are excited and rejoice. We love and hope. At the birth of Jesus there was also evidence of many emotions similar to the reactions to Jesus today.

Unfortunately the Inn Keeper was like many people. He was just too busy to take time to appreciate the Savior who had come.

The shepherds went through quite an array of emotions. At first they were afraid but when the angel appeared to them they experienced joy. After the angel left they were excited as they hurried to see the Christ child. Once they had seen the Savior, they told everyone they could about the marvelous things God had done. Those who heard the shepherds were amazed.

Certainly Mary was filled with many emotions, love, joy, fear, wonder, humility. The Scripture says, *"But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."*

Anna was one who served the Lord with great anticipation. She was faithful in praying for the coming Messiah. In the instant she saw the Savior, she gave thanks to the LORD. She was hopeful of Christ's coming and thankful for the opportunity she had been given.

Simeon was a righteous man who was consumed with the anticipation of the coming of the *LORD's Christ*. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, Simeon knew this was the Messiah. He was joyous and happy because he had seen the Salvation of God. He expressed His hope and confidence in the Savior.

As we think of Christmas and experience many of these blessed emotions, may we remember the emotions of the first Christmas.