

Introduction

This morning we are concluding our series on the goal is love. Our text has been 1 Timothy 1:5, which says “the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and a sincere faith.”

(1 Timothy 1:5) "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

We began by looking at the surpassing value of love. We are to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially the greater gifts, but love has a surpassing value to all the gifts.

There was a famous archer named Howard Hill. Howard won all of the 267 archery contests he entered. He could hit a bullseye at 50 feet, then split the first arrow with the second. He is considered the greatest archer/hunter of all time. You can read about Howard at www.howardhillarchery.com. But, you and I could shoot better than Howard if we only did one thing. If we blindfolded him, so that he could not see where the target was, he would not be able to hit the target. We must be able to see the target in order to hit the target. Therefore, we looked at this target called love. We looked at the characteristics of love. We wanted to clearly identify this target of love that we are aiming at.

We saw that we can measure love. We can know love. We can abide in love. We can grow in our love. However, one very important thing is that we must first possess this agape love. John tells us that everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Those who do not love do not know God, for God is love. We have to come into a relationship with God in order to possess this agape love.

(1 John 4:7-8) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. {8} The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Next, we looked at having a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. For us to love one another with a sincere love, we need a pure heart. For us to love God and love people we need a good conscience. We need a well calibrated conscience that helps us live uprightly. We also want to have a sincere faith. We want to live with integrity, and without any hypocrisy.

This morning we are going to conclude this series by looking at the fulfillment of the goal is love. We will look at God’s plan for man, and how the Christmas story fits into His plan. We will see how God communicated and carried out this plan, and the application for our lives.

In our passage the Greek word for goal is telos, which comes from the root word tello. Tello means to set out for a definite point or goal. It also can mean the conclusion of an act or state. In the financial arena, it can also mean to pay in full. The end result or goal of all that we do in the church is love. This morning, we want to look at this goal of love. Specifically, we want to look at this goal of love in light of the Christmas season that we are in.

(1 Timothy 1:5) "But the goal (G5056, telos) of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

G5056. telos, tel'-os; from a prim. tello (to set out for a definite point or goal); prop. the point aimed at as a limit, i.e. (by implication) the conclusion of an act or state an impost or levy (as paid).

1. God's Plan

Christmas is a special time of year. The holiday traditions are wonderful. Our family was reminiscing the other day about some of the old traditions. As a child, we strung popcorn on a long thread and wrapped it around our tree. Growing up in Iran, we could not go down to Walmart and buy decorations. We made many of the ornaments that got hung on a tree. The Christmas holiday gives us a great opportunity for families to come together. I also enjoy the Christmas hymns and carols. I enjoy the Christmas story. It is a special time of year.

Historically, as we look at Christmas, we do not know the exact date of the birth of Christ. We celebrate it on December 25, but in all likelihood, it did not take place on December 25. To me, the date is not the important thing about Christmas. **What is important about Christmas is that it sets in motion God's plan of redemption.** From the very beginning of time, God had a plan of redemption of mankind. God, being omniscient, knew all along that man would sin and would need a Savior. **God had a predetermined plan.**

In Acts 2:22-23 we find the account of Peter preaching at Pentecost. In his sermon that day, he says that Jesus was delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God. God knew before he even made man, that we would need a Savior. His goal was to have relationship and fellowship with you and I. In order to accomplish that, a perfect sacrifice would have to be made to restore that relationship. Therefore, the Father made a plan to send Jesus to pay for our sins.

(Acts 2:22-23) ""Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- {23} this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death."

2. Communicating and Executing the Plan

As we look at the Christmas story, God kept revealing the plan to us through the prophets. Roughly seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied that "a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." **Isaiah prophesied of the virgin birth.**

(Isaiah 7:14) ""Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

The prophecy was repeated in Isaiah 9:6-7. He tells us "a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. God was communicating his plan and giving us details about how this plan would get kicked off. He also clearly identified who this child is. This child is not just any child; He is Immanuel, which means God with us. He is God in the flesh, God incarnate. This child would be fully human, yet fully God. This child is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6) "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

The plan tells us that a boy would be born of a virgin. When Matthew wrote about the birth of Christ, he refers back to the prophecies given by Isaiah. He speaks about the virgin birth. Matthew gives details and insights about Joseph's character, and his thoughts regarding what was going on. He was a righteous man, and did not want to marry a woman who had scandalously become pregnant. He did not want to disgrace her, but he also did not want to have any further involvement with her. He wanted to put her away secretly. Let's pick it up in Matthew 1:18-19.

(Matthew 1:18-19) "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. {19} And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly."

The Lord knows the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. He knew what Joseph was thinking. Therefore, He sent an angel to speak to Joseph about this. **God dealt with the thoughts and intentions of Joseph.** Matthew continues by saying that when he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, and told him that the child had been conceived by the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the angel told Joseph to name the child Jesus, because He would save his people from their sins. Jesus or Jehoshua, means Jehovah saves.

(Matthew 1:20-21) "But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. {21} "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

Isaiah had prophesied that the child would be born of a virgin, and now that it is taking place, God is communicating with those involved and confirming the plan to them. As a manager, who schedules classes to be taught around the world, I get my Lead Instructors involved. There is a company in Denver that wants a class in January. I discussed the class with my Manager of Training to see if he wanted to teach the class or if he wanted to send someone else. When I have a company contact me about a class in another part of the world, I ask my instructors if they have a problem teaching a class in that particular country. There are some places in the world that are not very safe to travel to right now. The point is that I communicate with those who are involved in a project.

This is exactly what God did. He communicated to both Joseph and Mary about the Son that they were going to have. And, God communicated that plan through His prophets. **God communicates with all parties involved in the plan.** Matthew now quotes Isaiah's prophecy about this virgin birth. **Matthew confirms the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies.**

(Matthew 1:22-23) "Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, {23} "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US.""

The result of this angelic visit was that **Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him**, and he took Mary as his wife. Matthew records that he kept her a virgin until after she gave birth to a Son. He also named the boy, Jesus, just as the angel had instructed him.

(Matthew 1:24-25) "And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, {25} and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."

God also knew Mary's thoughts. **God dealt with the thoughts and fears of Mary**. He sent Gabriel to Mary to let her know about the plan. Luke records that she was greatly troubled by Gabriel's statement and kept pondering the salutation that Gabriel had given her. Therefore, the angel said to her, "do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God." Isn't it wonderful that God knows our thoughts and fears? Isn't it wonderful that He brings peace and comfort? Isn't it wonderful that He doesn't criticize her? He simply puts her at ease and encourages Mary. That is the character and nature of the God we serve.

(Luke 1:26-30) "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, {27} to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. {28} And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." {29} But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. {30} And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God."

Gabriel reveals the details of the plan to Mary. He goes on to tell her that she is going to conceive a child and bear a son, and name Him Jesus. He tells Mary that this is the Son of the Most High, and that His kingdom will have no end. God's kingdom is eternal because God is eternal.

(Luke 1:31-33) "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. {32} "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; {33} and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

Mary questions the angel about how this was going to take place, since she was a virgin. Gabriel explains that the Holy Spirit was going to come upon her and the power of the Most High was going to overshadow her. This is why the Son would be called the Son of God.

(Luke 1:34-35) "And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" {35} And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God."

All of this is the unfolding of the plan that Isaiah prophesied, that a "virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

(Isaiah 7:14) ""Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

Gabriel also tells Mary about Elizabeth, and how she has also conceived in her old age. Elizabeth was past her child bearing years, and so this is also a supernatural pregnancy. Gabriel tells her that nothing will be impossible with God. No matter what situation you find yourself in, Gabriel's words hold true today. Nothing is impossible with God. We serve a mighty God. Mary goes on to respond to Gabriel, saying, "be it done to me according to your word." When God reveals His plans for your life and my life, the best thing that we can do is to respond, "be it done to me according to your word."

(Luke 1:34-38) "And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" {35} And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. {36} "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. {37} "For nothing will be impossible with God." {38} And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

John the Baptist, Elizabeth's son in her old age, came as a forerunner of Christ. He was to prepare the way of the Lord. That was the plan for his life. He preached that the kingdom of God was at hand and for people to repent. God was revealing His plan to the Jews at that time. Luke records that the Pharisees and lawyers rejected God's purpose and plan for their lives. **Mary accepted God's plan for her life, while the Pharisees rejected God's plan for their lives.**

(Luke 7:30) "But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John."

Part of the God's plan included where Jesus was to be born. **Micah prophesies about the place Jesus was to be born.** He tells us that the child was to be born in Bethlehem. Micah also prophesies that this plan had been determined from the days of eternity. This plan of God was devised from the beginning of time, from the days of eternity.

(Micah 5:2) ""But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.""

The problem is that both Mary and Joseph were living in Galilee. Luke records in his account of the Christmas story that both Joseph and Mary were of David's descent. The angel of the Lord that visited Mary is identified as Gabriel, and he appears to her in Galilee. Both Mary and Joseph should have been living in Bethlehem. Historians believe that they had left Bethlehem because of Herod, who was ruling at the time.

(Luke 1:26-27) "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, {27} to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

How does God work out His plan for the Son of God to be born in Bethlehem? We find the answer to that in Luke 2:1-6.

(Luke 2:1-6) "Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. {2} This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. {3} And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city. {4} And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, {5} in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. {6} And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth."

God put on the heart of Caesar Augustus to take a census of all the inhabited earth. Solomon tells us that the heart of a king is like channels of water in the hand of God. He directs it wherever He wants. That encourages me to pray for our leaders. God can and will move the hearts of leaders to accomplish His will on earth. **Micah prophesied about the place Jesus was to be born and orchestrated the events so that His plan was fulfilled.**

(Proverbs 21:1) "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes."

Because of this decree from Caesar Augustus, every family was required to go to his home town and register. Joseph had to go to Bethlehem because he was of the house and family of David. Even though this violates the doctors orders not to travel after you are seven months pregnant, Mary traveled to Bethlehem with Joseph. And, while they were there, Jesus was born.

The plan of God for the redemption of mankind was launched at Christmas, but does not end there. **God also communicated His plan about the death of Christ.** The birth of Christ, which we celebrate at Christmas is just the start. Jesus came with a purpose. He came to live a perfect life and to lay His life down for us. Let's read the detailed account of Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus' death.

(Isaiah 53:2-) "For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. {3} He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. {4} Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. {5} But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. {6} All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. {7} He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. {8} By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living, For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due? {9} His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. {10} But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. {11} As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. {12} Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,

And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors."

Isaiah accurately prophesied about Jesus's crucifixion. He said that Jesus would be numbered with sinners. Jesus was hung between two criminals. Luke records that there were two other criminals who were crucified with Jesus, one on His left, and one on His right.

(Luke 23:32-33) "And two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him. {33} And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left."

He said that Jesus would be pierced through for our transgressions. In John's account of the crucifixion, he records that the soldiers broke the legs of the two sinners who were crucified with Jesus. When they saw that Jesus was dead, they did not break his legs. To make sure that He was dead, they pierced His side with a spear to verify His death. This was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy that He would be pierced.

(John 19:32-37) "The soldiers therefore came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with Him; {33} but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; {34} but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. {35} And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. {36} For these things came to pass, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN." {37} And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED.""

3. Fulfillment of God's Plan

God had clearly communicated His plan to us in advance. I would like to back up just a minute to look a scene in Jesus' life when He was speaking to some Pharisees about this plan. **Jesus was well aware of the plan and the goal.** In Luke 13:31-32, Jesus tells the Pharisees that He must cast out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, but on the third day He will reach His goal. Let's look at the passage together.

(Luke 13:31-32) "Just at that time some Pharisees came up, saying to Him, "Go away and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." {32} And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.'"

Jesus said that on the third day He would reach His goal. The Greek word here is teleioo, which has the same root word, telos. Teleioo means to complete, consummate, finish, fulfill, or to make perfect or mature. Again, what Jesus is saying is that on the third day, He will have reached His goal. He was prophetically speaking of His death and resurrection. Jesus had a goal. What was His goal? Jesus' goal was to carry out God's plan of redemption. It was not just to come as a new born babe, swaddled in a manger. It was to come, cast out demons, heal the sick, and to die for our sins. Jesus knew the goal, and was staying focused on carrying out this predetermined plan.

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G5048. teleioo, tel-i-o'-o; from G5046; to complete, i.e. (lit.) accomplish, or (fig.) consummate (in character):--consecrate, finish, fulfil, (make) perfect. [G5056. telos, tel'-os; from a prim. tello (to set out for a definite point or goal); prop. the point aimed at as a limit, i.e. (by impl.) the conclusion of an act or state.]

I would like to turn to John 19:30 where Jesus is on the cross. After He had been offered the sour wine, "He said, it is finished! And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit." The Greek word that is used for finished is teleo. It comes from the same root word, telos, that is used in 1 Timothy 1:5. It means to complete or finish. Literally it means to arrive at the point in the distance, or to reach the goal. **At Jesus' death, He declared that He had accomplished the goal** that He had set out to accomplish. Jesus had carried out the predetermined plan that He and the Father had developed from the days of eternity.

(John 19:30) "When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished (G5055, teleo)!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit."

G5055. teleo, tel-eh'-o; from G5056; to end, i.e. complete, execute, conclude, discharge (a debt):--accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, go over, pay, perform.

In 1 Timothy 1:5, Paul said that the goal of their instruction was love. Let's look at the motivation behind the goal that Jesus had. We find the answer to this question in John 3:16, a familiar verse. John writes "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. God devised a plan from the days of eternity to forgive men of their sins so that they could spend eternity with Him. This plan was motivated by love. God loved the world. This is not the things of the world, like we sometimes do. God loves the people of the world. Jesus was sent to the earth to die for our sins because God loved us so much. Jesus came out of the motivation of love. Like Paul, **the goal of Jesus' life was motivated by love.**

(John 3:16) ""For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

We also find this echoed in Romans 5:8. Paul tells us that God demonstrated His love towards us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus' death on the cross was a demonstration of God's love for us.

(Romans 5:8) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

What was the Father's goal? It was to send the Son to die for our sins. What was Jesus' goal? It was to demonstrate the love of God to us by laying down His life for us and to make payment for our sins. How great was this love? John tells us in 1 John 3:1, "see how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God."

(1 John 3:1) "See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

4. Application

As we come to a close this morning, God has a plan for each one of us. In 1 Timothy 2:3-4, Paul writes that God, our Savior, “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” **God’s desire is for all men to be saved.** He wants this plan to be communicated to each of us. He wants each of us to respond to His plan.

(1 Timothy 2:3-4) "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, {4} who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Each of us have a decision to make. How are we going to respond to this plan that God has been communicating to us? We saw that some people rejected God’s plan. The Pharisees and lawyers, the religious people of the day, did not accept God’s plans and purposes for their lives. God does not force Himself on anyone. He desires for all men to be saved, but He does not force Himself on us. He reveals Himself to us. The Holy Spirit draws us to Him, but He does not force you. All of us have a decision to make. The religious leaders heard John preaching that the kingdom of God was upon them, and called them to turn or repent. He called them to accept God’s purpose for their lives. Unfortunately, Luke records that they rejected God’s plan for their lives.

(Luke 7:30) "But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John."

Or, are we going to accept God’s plan for our lives. Some people simply respond like Mary did, “be it done to me according to your word.” The word angel literally means messenger. God has communicated His plan today through a messenger, not an angel, as in a heavenly being, but a simple messenger. The messenger is not the main point. The message is the main point. How are you going to respond to the message today? Are you going to accept and embrace this plan in your life? Is this going to be Christmas in your life, the launching point of God’s plan in your life? Are you ready to tell the Lord, be it done to me according to Your word?

(Luke 1:38) "And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

God’s plan is very simple. We read it earlier in Isaiah’s prophesy about this plan. He said that all of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. All of us have sinned. I have sinned. You have sinned. All of us like sheep have gone astray.

(Isaiah 53:6) "All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him."

The good news is that the Lord has made a provision for our sins. He sent His son, Jesus, to us. We celebrate His coming at Christmas. We remember His death and resurrection at Easter. But, it is His plan that we must take time to consider. He came to die for our sins. He came that our iniquities would fall on Him.

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John writes that as many as receive Jesus, He gave the right to become children of God. He says that we must believe in Jesus and receive Him. Do you believe the plan that God devised from the days of eternity? Do you believe the prophecies about this plan that were given centuries before the first Christmas? Are you willing to receive this Christ into your life this morning? Are you willing to receive His payment for your sins so that you can have eternal life?

(John 1:12) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,"

If you are ready to receive Christ into your life, I am going to ask you to come forward this morning. Don't reject God's plan. Don't allow pride, peer pressure, or anything else to keep you from rejecting God's plan for your life. Be a Mary this morning. Tell the Lord that you want it done to you according to His plan.

We will have people ready to pray with you this morning. Come. Amen.

Introduction (1 Tim 1:5, 1 John 4:7-8)

- The importance of Christmas is that it sets in motion God's _____ of redemption.

1. God's Plan

- God had a _____ plan. (Acts 2:22-23)

2. Communicating and Executing the Plan

- Isaiah prophesied of the _____ birth. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7)
- God dealt with the _____ and _____ of Joseph. (Matt 1:18-21)
- God _____ with all parties involved in the plan.
- Matthew confirms the _____ of Isaiah's prophecies. (Matt 1:22-23)
- Joseph did as the angel of the Lord _____ him. (Matt 1:24-25)
- God dealt with the thoughts and _____ of Mary. (Luke 1:26-30)
- Gabriel reveals the _____ of the plan to Mary. (Luke 1:31-38)
- Mary _____ God's plan for her life, while the Pharisees _____ God's plan for their lives. (Luke 1:36-38, Luke 7:30)
- Micah prophesied about the _____ Jesus was to be born and orchestrated the events so that His _____ was fulfilled. (Micah 5:2, Luke 1:26-27, Luke 2:1-6, Pro 21:1)
- God also communicated His plan about the _____ of Christ. (Is 53:2-12, Luke 23:32-33, John 19:32-37)

3. Fulfillment of God's Plan

- Jesus was also well aware of the _____ and the goal. (Luke 13:31-32)
- At Jesus' death, He declared that He had _____ the goal. (John 19:30)
- The goal of Jesus' life was motivated by _____. (1 Tim 1:5, John 3:16, Rom 5:8, 1 John 3:1)

4. Application:

- God's desire is for _____ men to be saved. (1 Tim 2:3-4)
- How will I respond to God's plan? (Luke 7:30, 1:38, Is 53:6, John 1:12)

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- God dealt with the thoughts and _____ of Mary. (Luke 1:26-30)
- Gabriel reveals the _____ of the plan to Mary. (Luke 1:31-38)
- Mary _____ God's plan for her life, while the Pharisees _____ God's plan for their lives. (Luke 1:36-38, Luke 7:30)
- Micah prophesied about the _____ Jesus was to be born and orchestrated the events so that His _____ was fulfilled. (Micah 5:2, Luke 1:26-27, Luke 2:1-6, Pro 21:1)
- God also communicated His plan about the _____ of Christ. (Is 53:2-12, Luke 23:32-33, John 19:32-37)

3. Fulfillment of God's Plan

- Jesus was also well aware of the _____ and the goal. (Luke 13:31-32)
- At Jesus' death, He declared that He had _____ the goal. (John 19:30)
- The goal of Jesus' life was motivated by _____. (1 Tim 1:5, John 3:16, Rom 5:8, 1 John 3:1)

4. Application:

- God's desire is for _____ men to be saved. (1 Tim 2:3-4)
- How will I respond to God's plan? (Luke 7:30, 1:38, Is 53:6, John 1:12)