



Today we look at the connection between Psalm 98 and the Christmas carol “Joy to the World.” While originally written with Christ’s second coming in mind, this hymn captures the profound joy that comes from both Christ’s first arrival and anticipated return. Praise propels us toward mission, as our authentic joy becomes a witness to others.

**ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE:**

- |              |               |                     |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Psalm 98:1-9 | Genesis 3:17  | 1 Corinthians 15:55 |
| Isaiah 9:6   | Psalm 136     |                     |
| Luke 2:14    | Zechariah 9:9 |                     |

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What is your favorite Christmas carol and why?

**WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

- Read Psalm 98:1-3. What reasons does the psalmist give for singing to the Lord?
- How does the psalm progress from personal praise to global worship?

**UNDERSTANDING DEEPER**

- How does understanding Isaac Watts’ personal story (depression, health struggles, rejection) affect your perspective on “Joy to the World”?
- What is the significance of the often-omitted third verse about “the curse?”

**APPLICATION**

- “Gratitude is the gateway to joy and joy is the gateway to praise.” How have you experienced this connection?
- How might our corporate worship serve as a witness to non-believers?

**NEXT STEPS**

- What one practice could you implement this week to cultivate deeper gratitude?
- What steps can you take to share the joy of Christ with others this Christmas season?

**CHRISTMAS MISSION ACTIVITY**

**PURPOSE:** To intentionally notice and share God’s joy during the Christmas season.

**STEPS:**

1. Create a “Joy Journal” for December.
2. Daily, record one “wonder of God” you notice (in nature, relationships, circumstances, etc.).
3. Share your observations with at least one person each week.