**Message Outline**

*The Gospel in the Grinch:*

*The Pursuit of Christmas*

**Luke 2:8-15**

**Intro:** Learning the Gospel thru the Grinch…

* Week 1: The more, not store, side of Christmas (Jn.1)…
* Week 2: “I’m sorry” scene and the repentance reflected in the Grinch…

-Two responses to sin:

a) Sin isn’t my issue: making light of sin.

b) My sin is too bad: being crushed by personal weight of sin.

-Christmas announces a Savior for sin (Mt.1:21), which means, a) YOU are a sinner but also b) there is no sin He can’t save you from!

* Today, the Grinch can’t escape the music…the pursuit of Christmas!

**Read:** Luke 2:8-15

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_v.8-11

* Theologians call God’s pursuit of humanity “Prevenient Grace”…
* God pursues us even when we are unaware and aren’t looking for Him…
* God’s pursuit in Eden (Gen.3:8-9)…
* God’s pursuit when we weren’t pretty (Rom.5:8)…
* God takes the first steps in relationships (cf. Jn.3:16, Ezek.34:11-12, Is.65:1-2)…

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_v.15

* Relationships happen at the response of pursuit…
* Our need to seek Him (Mt.6:33)…
* What the Wise Men teach us about seeking this season (cf. Mt. 2:1-2)…

a)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**3rd Sunday of Advent:**

**JOY**

**Reviewing Romans around the Wreath**

***12****And again, Isaiah says,*

*“The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
    one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
    in him the Gentiles will hope.”*

***13****May the God of hope fill you with all* ***joy*** *and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*-Romans 15:12-13 NIV*

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**JOY** is an offshoot as we trust in this Root of Jesse (ie. Jesus). Jesus brings lasting **JOY**! In fact, people in Jesus’ day saw Jesus’ **JOY** and claimed He was a drunk (cf. Lk.7:33-34), yet Jesus knew a **JOY** deeper than any bottle can manufacture. Christmas invites us to drink deeply of the lasting **JOY** found only in Jesus!

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