

# MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



## GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-20

As a group, discuss the following questions:

1. Did God use Caesar Augustus to accomplish His will for the birth of Messiah Jesus? If so, how? (Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-5)
  - a. Does God use believers today to accomplish His will? How? Give personal examples.
  - b. Does God use non-believers to accomplish His will? How? Give examples.
2. Octavian (Caesar Augustus) ruled Rome as Emperor from 27 BC to 14 AD. He secured the Empire's borders and established the "Pax Romana" – an unprecedented period of extended peace in the Mediterranean world. Rome thought they ruled the world. Look at what's happening in the world today – Iran, Pakistan, Syria, Kenya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, and the United States. QUESTIONS?
  - a. Who is in control?
  - b. Who rules the world?
  - c. Does your answer give you hope and comfort or despair? Why or why not?
3. Luke 2:6-7 – What is your idea of a stable (or cave) in Israel in 4 BC?
  - a. Does God work in the dark, dingy, dirty places in the world?
  - b. When Jesus did a saving work in your life, was it dark, dirty, dingy, and sinful? We must remember that God wants us to be ministers of light in the darkness of our world today.
4. Luke 2:8-20 SHEPHERDS – God always accomplishes His Will, but often NOT how we want or expect. King Jesus was born in a dirty cave, not in a palace, as expected. The announcement of the coming of the Messiah was to shepherds, not to kings. The GOOD NEWS about Jesus is that He came for ALL – including the plain and the ordinary! He comes to anyone with a heart humble enough to accept Him.
  - a. How can we use that information in our ministry to bikers? Whoever you are, whatever you do, you can have Jesus in your life.
5. Luke 2:14 is a short hymn called the "Gloria in excelsis Deo" from the first line in the Latin translation. The coming of the Messiah brought Glory to God in Heaven and Peace to humans on earth. QUESTION?
  - a. Do you have peace?
  - b. Is it possible to have peace in the midst of turmoil?
  - c. In the middle of war?
  - d. How, who, or what is the source of peace?
6. Luke 2:15-20 – After the shepherds met Jesus, they told everyone they knew what had happened to them.
  - a. What lessons can we learn from their actions?
  - b. Lessons about work?
  - c. Lessons about worship?
  - d. Lessons about witnessing?

PRAYER: Pray that you will learn to praise God for all His blessings. Pray for peace in any and all circumstances of life. Pray that as you minister to bikers, you can remember to hate the sin but love the sinner. During this Christmas season, be grateful for God's greatest gift, a Messiah and Savior named Jesus. Pray for opportunities to give that gift to someone else this Christmas.