

Sermon Title: The Season of Advent, Part III 12.14.2025

Themes: Guarding that which God guards. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org

Weekly Question: What *in* your life is worth guarding *with* your life?

Sermon Points:

1. That which is worth guarding. Everyone guards something, whether it be loved ones, personal finances, family secrets, or a private sin. You are guarding something. When you are where you should be spiritually you are more likely to hear what you should hear and to do what you should do. You will be guarding the right things. This will bring you confidence, joy, and a clear conscience. **Luke 2:8-10.** The shepherds were where they were supposed to be...watching over their flocks, at night, when danger from wild animals, and even humans, was usually at its peak. They were at the right place at the right time. God the Father watched over you while you were yet a sinner by sending His Son to save you from a tenacious enemy: you. **Romans 5:8.** When it comes to shepherds looking out for their flock, Jesus is *the* Good Shepherd. What does God guard? **John 10:7-16.** Hoarders don't have peace because they're guarding the wrong things. They put stuff over people and clutter over health. When we learn to guard what matters most we focus on the most important things. Guard what God guards and you'll have peace and joy despite your problems. Guard your heart and testimony and not the habits and things that will one day bring you heartache. Even Paul struggled with this. **Romans 7:15.**

2. Being worthy of guarding that which matters most. Obedience in *every* area of your life is important. Shepherds were pretty tough. David was not a warrior but a shepherd. Yet, what he learned defending his father's sheep from lions and bears was put to good use in defeating Goliath, the mighty warrior. David was worthy of guarding the sheep and worthy of fighting God's enemies. **1 Samuel 17:34-37.** In guarding the sheep (that which is important to God) we learn to guard our testimony—which is important to you. The shepherds no doubt had seen a lot, but God got their attention. *The glory of the Lord* will rock your world and be the bedrock of *your walk with the Lord*! May we powerfully experience the glory of the Lord this Christmas as we faithfully glorify Him.

3. Good news of great joy. What was the outcome of the conversation that got their attention? Great joy! What's on God's heart? **Luke 2:10.** Even in *our* day joy is achievable. What good news have you received lately? There is good news that can make you *happy* and good news of *great joy*! What is *that* good news? It's *the* Good News of Jesus Christ! At the end of your life Jesus your Savior is going to be the greatest news you will have ever heard...or allowed to fall silent! Though the glory of the Lord can shake us to our very core, for those in Christ He is our source of great joy! **Romans 15:13.** How do we overflow with hope in Christ in the midst of our distress? When you're down and out, anxious, upset, hurting, and angry, seek the Lord first. Before asking what you can get from the world, ask what you can give to the Lord. That change of *heart* changes *everything*! What is God doing in your life? Meditate on what *He* is doing and *you* will find comfort and joy this Christmas!

4. Sharing the Good News. Isaiah 40:9-11. What will be the outcome of your conversations today? I pray it is joy! But will you give God all you've got today? How do we experience that? Where is your *heart, mind*, and your *flesh* in relation to Jesus Christ? You can be on mission in Casa Grande without being a missionary overseas. Talk to Him in prayer and see that He is there! What's important to God? **Matthew 28:18-20.** When we are in the right place mentally, physically, and spiritually we are better able to go anywhere, anytime for the sake of the Gospel! Gladly cross the room, cross the street, and maybe even go around the world...*that* will bring great joy! Are *you* guarding what *God* guards?

Invitation: Lord, help me to keep watch over that which You want me to faithfully protect.