

It's here! I hope you found the perfect gift, hope you get the perfect gift from the one you love. Men, if you couldn't find the perfect gift for your girl, it's because you don't listen ..listen, pay attention, look to her signs.

What are you looking for here? What do you hope to find? **And this will be a sign for you, you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.** What we the shepherds to look for, the signs?

Shepherds were the dregs of society, no social status, barely above criminals. What they must have been thinking. Look for a baby, in clothes also used for burial, in a feeding trough for animals. Then they see the mightiness army of angels this world has even had. What they must have been thinking as they look for this perfect gift. And what do they find? As the angel said, dirt poor parents, no one important, in a humiliating nursery, filthy place for a baby and in spite of what they see or think, they bow down. Things are not as they appear is greatness of the world. Do not romanticize the scene. It is an act of desperation. Humiliation of God to save your flesh, there's no other way for you to live for eternity.

And the shepherds fell down at worship. In spite of what they see, in spirit of their reason and feelings. They took God at His Word, listened, look for the signs of God's declaration.

What are you looking for this night? What are you looking this time of year, looking for in 2019?

In your homes. You find there is much joy and celebration. Yet too often, our homes are filled with sinful activities. Sinful actions, that we should find in our homes the peace this child gives, as the Lord came to the shepherd doing their duty, so to His word unto us, that would dwell among us as with the shepherd, **peace among those with whom He is pleased.** This message of the angels comes to His faithful people, that you dwell in peace- that peace, the forgiveness He brings to you would live in with your family.

What do you find in your homes, ever changing, These moments are fleeting that we would cherish these moments with loved ones and not waste in on selfish, sinful ideas. that we would hold these times and days with family precious and not waste them on hurtful words and actions.

To endure the attacks, as satan, this world works to destroy every relationship you have. all that comes against you in this world you cannot survive without what this child brings.

What we should find in our homes is a fortress for the tempted, a refuge for the weary, and a foretaste of our eternal home. We go home and find the gifts and presents God has given you. Tending to life, like the shepherds go back to their homes glorifying God for all He has done.

What do you look for, what are the signs? We must do away with any pious notions of "God up there." We cannot ascend to God, either in thoughts, prayers, dreams, or faith, but God comes down to us. We cannot crawl our way out of your sin's darkness, but God crawls His way to you. He comes here in this place for the sick, the lost; He comes only for sinners.

He has not left you in the dark and clueless. As He did for the shepherds, so does He also for you, even the likes of you, tells you where to look for Him, where exactly to find Him, the signs by which you will discover the Child born of Mary in city of Bethlehem.

And the song of the angels and His direction and signs ever draw you back to this place, this Bethlehem. What you find here is still Bethlehem, right here, as our Lord comes each week.

Signs for you, swaddling clothes this is, burial clothes, as the Scripture declare the goods of His death are pour upon you in baptism waters and you celebrate His death unto He comes again in the Lord's Supper. His garments, that cover you in this babe's righteousness.

Signs of this babe is a feeding trough, the manger is there, an altar. a feeding trough there. You see, Bethlehem, which means House of Bread, the city of David, this is the city of the King, here, by our Lord declarations. What you will find, see the signs unto you. His Sacrament, to feed His people, His very flesh and blood here. United to Him as in no other way on earth.

Just as those lowly shepherds, you are blessed to here the song, join in the song of the angels, of heaven, as He also is pleased with you. Peace only for those who would dare fall down like the shepherds and worship a man, a man who is also the Creator, God himself.

How dare you come into this house or approach this altar as anything but a sinner. This birth is just for sinners as the shepherd heard, **peace among those with whom he is pleased.**

For the dregs, for the broken, for the hurting, for the repentant to have their life in Him, healed by Him, filled with peace only He gives and that only comes, what the angels sang peace, in the forgiveness of your sins.

And when you leave this place, let people know what can be found here, who can be found here, the signs God gives, as heaven and earth comes together as in no other way you will find. What He comes to give.

Bask in the perfect gift, forgiveness of sins, your God in the flesh who still comes to His manger, feeding trough for His people, comes to this Bethlehem, this House of Bread. To week after week Christmas with His people. here as heaven and earth come together as in no other way, to find Him, see His signs for you, for sinners. The perfect gift is here for you. Frohe Weihnachten, Merry Christmas