The Little Drummer Boy Ruins Everything…

* Christmas celebrations…
  + Christians – Different levels of celebrating
    - Some don’t observe at all
    - No authority to observe Christ’s birth, but obviously His birth is important
    - Can be helpful to look at the details of Jesus’ birth at a time the world is focused on it
* What is the “worst” Christmas song? For me, it’s “The Little Drummer Boy”…
  + So slow and repetitive, it is torture
  + Lyrics/story is total fabrication
  + Who lets a kid bang on a drum when an infant is trying to sleep?
  + Ox and lamb kept time?
* “The Little Drummer Boy” is a microcosm of adding to what we have in Scripture
  + Lk. 2:1-20
  + Mt. 1:18 – 2:18
    - No mention of date, but unlikely 12-25 (Lk. 2:8)
    - No mention of what animals, if any, were near manger (Lk. 2:7)
    - No account of how many wise men attended (Mt. 2:1)
    - Unclear exactly when wise men arrived, but unlikely at birth (Mt. 2:11)
    - No command to observe celebration of birth
* “I have no gift to bring” so I’ll bring what I have…
  + No preparation (Mt. 25:1-13)
  + Similar to Cain’s offering (Gen. 4:3-5)
  + God expects our all (Mt. 13:44-46; 23:23-28)
* Plenty of areas in life for creativity—but let’s refrain from adding to or subtracting from God’s word (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18)
  + Applies to holiday celebrations of Christmas, but not just there
  + How we are saved
  + How the church is organized
  + What work the church performs
  + Speak where Bible speaks…
  + For the world, it is much more comforting to see Jesus as the babe in the manger instead of the one who died for our sins and judges manking.