

## The Message of Christmas: God With Us!

Hundreds of years had passed since the close of the Old Testament and God's people were still looking and praying for the Messiah...Immanuel...God with us. And then, as **Galatians 4:4-5** tells us, *"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."*

In spite of the fact that Jesus came and lived among them, the vast majority did not experience "God with us." And so it is with most people today.

You see, Christmas is not about who can spend the most money...who can give the most gifts...who can display the most elaborate decorations...or who can prepare and eat the most food. Christmas is about the blessed and promised message: "God with us!" As **Psalms 16:11** says, *"You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

### Matthew 1:18-25

**v. 23** *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."* From now until Christmas I want to challenge all of us to focus on the fact that the message of Christmas is "God with us." What does that really mean?

#### 1st It means that Jesus had to be born of a virgin. Vv. 18, 20, 23

*"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit...But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit"..."***Behold the virgin shall be with Child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."**

Without the virgin birth, God could not truly be with us.

#### 2nd It means for God to be with us, we must be willing to trust Him and take Him at His word. Vv. 24-25

*"Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS."*

Joseph had the written word of the Old Testament prophets. He heard God's word through the visit of an angel. And most importantly he believed and accepted it all through faith. And so must we.

**Hebrews 11:6** *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

#### 3rd It means that Jesus had to come to earth and provide salvation through His shed blood. V. 21

*"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

God came into this world not only to be with us, but to provide the salvation we could never provide for ourselves. Motivated by His great love and through His marvelous grace, the Provider of the manger was also the Donor of the cross!

**Romans 5:8** *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

**Matthew 26:28** *"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*

As we enter into this most glorious time of the year, and we find ourselves immersed in all the decorations, the parades, the shopping, the gifts, and the activities of the season, let us never lose sight of the real message of Christmas: IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US!

In His Love,  
Joel