

“EMMANUEL” — “God With Us”

Matthew 1:16-25 (text v. 23)

In Matthew 1 three names are ascribed to the child born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago: “*Christ*” (v. 16); “*Jesus*” (v. 21); “*Emmanuel*” (v. 23).

- “*Christ*” [Messiah] designates His **position / identity**.
- “*Jesus*” denotes His **purpose / intention**—To save His people from their sins (v. 21). “*Jesus*” means Jehovah saves.
- “*Emmanuel*” describes His **person / incarnation**—Who He is—“*God with us.*”

No one actually called Jesus “*Emmanuel*” in the Bible. They called Him “*Jesus*,” because that is what His name says He came to do—Save His people from their sins. But He could not save anyone if He were not “*Emmanuel*” — God with us!

I. The CERTAINTY of Emmanuel. PROOF

- ➡ What “*Emmanuel*” **proves** — Jesus Christ IS GOD in the flesh!
 - ➡ A mystery beyond human understanding—The holy God and Creator of the universe taking upon Himself the body of fallen man.
 - ➡ A miracle of miracles. Surely the angels in heaven must have looked down in amazement upon the scene in Bethlehem as God clothed Himself in human flesh.
 - ➡ The God who is with us is made out of the same stuff we are made of... and made out of the same stuff God is made of... and He will let neither of us go.
- A. His CLAIM proved Him to be God (John 10:30-33; 14:8-9). If He was not God, He is a liar!
 - B. His CONDUCT proved He was God. Everything Jesus said and did confirmed Him to be “*God with us*” (John 1:18).
 1. Worshipped as God (Mt. 2:2; 4:10; 14:33; John 9:38; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 5; 19:1-8).
 2. Forgave sins as only God can (Mk. 2:5-12). There is no forgiveness of sins apart from Jesus!

- C. He is CALLED God (John 1:1, 14; 20:26-29; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 1:8; 1 John 5:20).

II. The **COMPANIONSHIP of Emmanuel**. PRESENCE

- Jesus is not only God—He is “*God WITH US!*”
 - Christianity is the only religion in the world that claims God Himself dwells with them. All other religions believe in a “god” who is external, who is not present, who cannot feel our infirmities.
 - How Emmanuel is **present**?
- A. He is present in **Salvation**. There is no salvation apart from Him. “*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself*” (2 Cor. 5:19).
- B. He is present in **Suffering**.

A father warned his rebellious son that if he disobeyed one more time he would be sent to the attic to spend the night. Sure enough, the boy disobeyed again and the father sent him to the attic. At supper, the father could not eat. His mind was on his son in the attic. His wife said, “I know how you feel, but you must not go back on your word. If you let him come down from the attic now, he will lose all respect for your word.” The father agreed, “You are right. I cannot break my word. But he is so lonely up there. Since he cannot come down, I will go up to spend the night with him.”

- C. He is present in our **Sorrows** (Ps. 23:4).
- D. He is present in our **Struggles**. He is in the fire with us (the fourth man).
- E. He is present in our **Service** (Mt. 28:20; Acts 18:9).

III. The **CONSEQUENCES of Emmanuel** (vs. 22-23). PROVISION

- How should this truth affect us? What Emmanuel **provides**.
- A. We should be **CONFIDENT** knowing He is with us.
- The name “*Emmanuel*” is the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy to Ahaz in Isaiah 7:13-14 (cf. context 2 Kings 16:5-9).

- Two enemy nations planned to attack Judah during the reign of Ahaz. God assured Ahaz that he had nothing to fear. The plot of the enemy nations would fail.
- Instead of believing and trusting the Lord, Ahaz looked to Assyria for help (cf. 2 Kings 16:7-9; Isa. 7:9).
- Since the Jews require a sign, God told Ahaz to ask for a sign to confirm His promise (vs. 10-11). Ahaz refused.
- God gave Ahaz a sign anyway—The sign is one of the greatest prophecies of the virgin birth (v. 14). Modern versions change “virgin” to young woman or maiden. But that is not a sign.
- If Ahaz believed God was with him he would be CONFIDENT in the face of enemy nations.
 1. If God be for us, who can be against us? And if God is WITH us, who can defeat us? Certainly not Satan!
 2. If God is WITH us, what temptation can overtake us? Only the ones which we allow...
 3. If God is WITH us, what difficulty can conquer us?

B. We should be CONTENT knowing He is with us (Isa. 7:14-15).

Since the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings, the Lord of lords chose to come to this earth in the lowliest manner... born in a stable... work as a carpenter... wear the commonest clothes... eat the simplest foods—then shouldn't we be content with the same.

Does this describe you? Or do you demand the newest and finest clothes, automobiles, homes, furniture, etc.?

C. We should be CONSIDERATE knowing He is with us.

SUMMATION: The name “*EMMANUEL*” tells us...

- Jesus came to LIVE as a man. As a man could experience what it is like to be human. He knows how you feel.
- Jesus came to DIE for man. As God He could not die, therefore He had to become a man to die for our sins. Philippians 2:8—“*And being*

found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Hebrews 2:9—“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death...that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

- Jesus came to LIVE in man. He indwells the body of every Christian. John 14:20—*“I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”* Rom. 8:9—*“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”*; Gal. 2:20—*“Christ liveth in me...”*; Eph. 3:17—*“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...”*; Col. 1:27—*“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

Look at the Christian in the pew next to you—what do you see? Another person who has God dwelling inside of them.

Karl Barth was a world-renowned theologian who lived in Basel, Switzerland. While on a streetcar one day in Basel a tourist to the city sat down next to Barth. Barth asked the man, "Are you new to the city?" "Yes," said the tourist. "Is there anything you would particularly like to see in this city?" asked Barth. "Yes, I'd sure like to meet the famous theologian Karl Barth. Do you know him?" Barth replied, "Well as a matter of fact, I do. I give him a shave every morning." Later, the tourist returned to his hotel and reflected, "Wow! I met Karl Barth's barber today!"

How many times do we fail to realize that when we sit, eat, sing, and fellowship with other Christians we are in the presence of Christ Himself (Mt. 18:20)!

➡ Shouldn't the fact that God lives inside every Christian effect how you treat them (Mt. 25:40)???

Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:12)? Have you opened your heart to invite Him in (Rev. 3:20). If you haven't, you are still dead in your sins. You do not have eternal life. But, if you will, you can open your heart and receive Him today! Then he will be your *“EMMANUEL— God with YOU!”*