

Immanuel: God with Us

Christmas 2014

- We are limited in many ways, but God is not.
- God is infinite in many ways, but we are not.
- Focusing on our limitations highlights our inadequacy.
- Focusing on God's endless abilities highlights his glory.

- We and God are very different.
- But God has chosen not to be distant.
- He has entered our world and is now with us to stay.

Five Passages We Will Read Today:

- Exodus 3:1-12
- Isaiah 7:14, 9:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-25
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Colossians 1:15-29

Immanuel: God with Us Exodus 3:1-12

- The Lord saw people suffering in bondage.
- He sent Moses to lead them to freedom.
- When Moses looked at himself, he didn't think he was fit to accomplish the task.
- God responded by saying, "But I will be with you..."

Immanuel: God with Us Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7

- Immanuel means "God is with us."
- His birth would bring great joy.
- He would reign forever over on David's throne.
- He would be the perfect expression of God's presence.

Immanuel: God with Us Matthew 1:18-25

- The name Jesus means "salvation" or "Yahweh saves."
- Jesus was not conceived by a human father, but by a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit.
- In Christ, God the Son took upon himself true humanity.
- He is genuinely "God with us" as Isaiah prophesied.

Immanuel: God with Us Matthew 28:18-20

- Like Moses, we have received a mission to proclaim release from suffering and bondage – not of Egypt, but of sin.
- Like Moses, we may not feel well-suited for the task.
- Like Moses, God has promised to be with us – but in our case, to the very end of the age.

Immanuel: God with Us Colossians 1:15-29

- If we know Jesus, we are now subjects in his kingdom.
- Clothed in humanity, he is the exact representation of God.
- He rules over everything.
- We are reconciled to God by the blood of his cross.
- And Christ remains with us by dwelling within us.

Immanuel: God with Us

- When Christ promised to be with us, he was committing to doing something that was promised in long ago.
- As “God with us,” it is in fact an aspect of his identity.
- He won’t have it any other way.

- The question now remains with us.
- Have we been reconciled to God through his cross?
- Have we given him the place he desires – and deserves – in our lives?
- Are we committed to the enterprise of making disciples?

Two opportunities lie before us:

- A chance to receive forgiveness of sins based upon Christ’s death upon the cross.
- A chance to recommit ourselves to the Great Commission.

Receiving Forgiveness through Christ

- *Heavenly Father,*
- *I confess to you that I am a sinner and that I need your forgiveness.*
- *I accept the perfect sacrifice of Christ on the cross as the just payment for my sins.*
- *Please give me eternal life as a gift, which is new life in Christ – my resurrected Savior.*
- *And please help me to live for you from now on.*
- *I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Committing to Christ’s Great Commission

- *Heavenly Father,*
- *You have given us a wonderful privilege by allowing us to know you, love you and serve you.*
- *And we admit that Christ dwelling in us is an incredible glorious hope.*
- *And we know that he will always be with us.*
- *Therefore, we accept the Great Commission that he has given us to go and make more disciples.*
- *It is in Christ’s name that we pray. Amen.*