

## **Christmas Is God With Us**

### **Matthew 1:23**

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."

A baby is a special thing. When we consider all that takes place in that 9 month period it is practically a miracle, except that it happens millions of times a year.

But every baby is special, or at least should be.

Isn't she so cute. Doesn't he look like his daddy.

Consider all the potential that is in that baby. Maybe a doctor, a teacher. Someone who might touch the lives of hundreds or even thousands of people. What a great responsibility we as parents have. We hold the keys of life and death, blessings or curses in our hands. There is no greater responsibility that we are personally to take care of, because no one else can do the job of parents.

But Mary and Joseph had so much more than anyone else. Anyone before them or since.

For this baby born to this peasant family is Immanuel, God with us. GOD WITH US.

But what does that even mean?

How does that affect you and me?

Isn't this just another one of the quaint religious phrases that Christians throw around?

I mean, is it really all that important?

- I. Those first century believers experienced God with them as we cannot do today.
  - A. They touched Him
    1. His parents
    2. His friends before He was 30
    3. The disciples.
    4. 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – NKJV
  - B. They lived with Him
    1. You really get to know someone when you live with them.
    2. They did need WWJD they could see it lived out every day in the life of Jesus.
  - C. They beheld the glory of God through His Son

1. John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. NKJV
  2. At the age of 12 Jesus amazed the teachers of the law by His questions.
    - a. Luke 2:46-47; 46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. NKJV
  3. Before Jesus was betrayed they had attempted to arrested Him but the soldiers could not bring themselves to do it.
    - a. John 7:45-46 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" 46 The officers answered,"No man ever spoke like this Man!" NKJV
  4. When Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah those seeking Him fell down backward at His word.
    - a. John 18:5-6 Jesus said to them, "I am He." . . . 6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. NKJV
  5. Not to mention all His miracles.
    - a. Water to wine
    - b. Walking on water
    - c. Rasing the dead
    - d. Etc. And even His own resurrection.
  6. And then there was His teaching.
    - a. He taught them with authority. Matthew 7
    - b. John 6:67-69 "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. NKJV
- D. But what does all that have to do with us today some might say. A great deal for those who put their trust in Him.

II. We believers have God in us, His divine nature

- A. John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. NKJV
- B. Rom 8:10-11 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the

Spirit is life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His **Spirit who dwells in you**. NKJV

C. There is a unity of believers with God.

1. John 17:20-22 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;<sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. NKJV

D. 2 Peter 1:2-4 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,<sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,<sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. NKJV

E. Col 1:27-28 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. NKJV

III. We will experience "us with God."

A. 1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.<sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. NKJV

B. Col 3:4 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. NKJV

C. Jer 31:32-34 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.<sup>34</sup> No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." NKJV

D. Rev 21:1-4 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.<sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.<sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed

away." NKJV

Have you experienced GOD WITH US?

That is what Jesus came to be.

Is that what He is to you?