

## God Is With Us

Christmas season in our culture is a time of many varied messages, secular and religious. While many do not teach or promote a true biblical Christmas, for us who have experienced God's salvation, we can focus on God and His gift of His Son for us.

One name for Jesus which appears in the Christmas narrative is Immanuel:

עִמָּנוּאֵל **n.pr.m. Immanuel**; name of child, symbolizing presence of "I" to deliver his people; declaration of trust and confidence, *with us is God*.

We can be reminded this season of "God with us," as we reflect on Christmas. There are four ways in scripture in which God is with us. We will look at these four ways this morning.

How is God with us:

1) Incarnation: Jesus dwelt with men.

**Matthew 1:23** <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

**Luke 1:78-79** <sup>78</sup> Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

**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.

This is the most important event in all of history. God steps into this world, as a man, to die on a cross and pay for our sins. The Christmas story should remind us of how God provided salvation for all men.

2) Indwelling: Holy Spirit dwells with us.

**Romans 5:5** <sup>5</sup> Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by **the Holy Spirit who was given to us**.

**1 Corinthians 6:19** <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of **the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

**Ephesians 1:13-14** <sup>13</sup> In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

**Ephesians 4:30** <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, **by whom you were sealed** for the day of redemption.

**1 Thessalonians 4:7-8** <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who **has also given us His Holy Spirit**.

**2 Timothy 1:14** <sup>14</sup> That good thing which was committed to you, **keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us**.

The Holy Spirit dwells in us, giving us hope, challenging us to walk in our faith, and sealing us as Christ's children.

3) In our corner: God is for us.

**Genesis 35:3** <sup>3</sup> "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and **has been with me** in the way which I have gone."

**Psalm 46:5** <sup>5</sup> God *is* in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; **God shall help her**, just at the break of dawn.

**Psalm 46:11** <sup>11</sup> **The LORD of hosts is with us**; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah

**Romans 8:31-32** <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If **God is for us**, who *can be* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

God wants the best for us. He desires that we obey and please Him, but He will be with us to help us to do that.

4) In eternity: God will always be with us.

**Revelation 21:3-4** <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."

God, through eternity future will be physically dwelling with us. We will see Him, talk with Him, worship in His presence, and live with Him.

We can reflect on and praise God for:

- Being with us to provide salvation
- Being with us by giving us the Holy Spirit
- Being with us by desiring the best for us
- Being with us eternally as our God and King.