

## *The Promise Kept*

Isaiah 7:14 ♦ Pastor Dean Lancaster ♦ November 25, 2018

*“Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*

The promise of Jesus' coming was given 700 years before His birth in Bethlehem. So essentially, at Christmas we celebrate that God kept His promise.

What was His promise? It was Immanuel, which Matthew translates as “God WITH us.”

Immanuel, God with us, gives four realities we celebrate at Christmas.

### **Reality No. 1: Jesus came, so we can be on God's Side.**

- The Law was *against* us because we are too weak to fulfill it.
  - Colossians 1:13-14 *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*
- We are no longer **enemies** but **sons and daughters** of the King.

### **Reality No. 2: Jesus came to us in human flesh.**

- He faced **temptations** just like we all do.
  - Heb 4:15 *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin.*
- God came as a human so we could **relate to Him**.

### **Reality No. 3: Jesus came to be our substitute**

- We owe a **penalty** for our sin. (Romans 6:23)
- Jesus stepped in and **paid it for us**. (Romans 3:25)

### **Reality No. 4: Jesus came because we are helpless.**

- Rom 8:3 *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son.*
- God wants a **relationship** with His people.
- Jesus didn't stop at Salvation; He is still ministering to us.
  - He is our **Intercessor** - praying for us (Heb 7:25)
  - He is our **Advocate** - arguing for us. (1 John 2:1)
  - He is our **Healer** - comforting us. (James 5:15)

### **Take this with you...**

- **If you know for sure you will go to heaven when you die:**
  - Love others as much as you love yourself – **forgive** them.
  - God keeps His promises:
    - Matthew 6:14-15 *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
  - Give the gift of **real love** this Christmas.
- **If you are not sure you will go to heaven when you die, make sure today.**
  - We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.
  - Rom 10:9-10 *For if you **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

This Christmas season celebrate Jesus, the promise God kept.