

IMMANUEL: Living With An Awareness Of God's Presence

(Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 2:1-7)

Introduction.

A) For milleniums, the birth of Jesus was anticipated. Announced by God in Genesis 2, the redeemer was expected. Pictured by the deeds of Abraham, the savior was anticipated. Identified with the lineage of David, the Messiah was identified. Prophesied about by Isaiah, Micah, and others, Immanuel was desired. Marked by supernatural signs and wonders, Jesus was born.

B) But what happened? The most anticipated event in human history (4000 years) seemed to go unnoticed by the majority of the people.

C) Was it because of where he was born? Was it because of his parents? Was it because of something else?

I realize there was no social media, no news reporters, and no one to sensationalize the event, but so little?

D) Before criticizing the people of that day, think about us. More knowledge, more evidence, more has been written about Jesus, yet people today overlook Him.

E) Contextualize this sermon in the Immanuel Series.

F) The purpose of today's message is to challenge you *to live with a constant awareness of God's presence in your life.*

I. The Fact Of God's Presence In Our World

A) Declared by God.

B) Evidenced to Man.

C) Experience by the Redeemed.

II. Many People Live Their Lives Oblivious To The Presence of God

- How can people miss God? Evidence is everywhere! (John 1:10-12)

- People who live their lives oblivious to the presence of God . . .

A. Live Their Lives In Search Of Hope And Meaning (...darkness).

B. Are Susceptible To Being Drawn Into Things That, In The End, Leave Them Feeling Even More Empty And Confused

C. Often Live Their Lives Without Any Moral Compass Or Direction.

III. What Does It Mean To Have God With Us?

(Because of Immanuel, we have salvation, secure in Christ's work on the Cross.)

Living with an awareness of God's presence means . . .

A. I Can Face Every Situation Of My Life With Courage And Assurance.

B. Means That I Can Be Spiritually Successful Even In the Difficult Places Of My Life

C. Means That I Don't Have To Worry About Being Overcome By My Failure

D. Means That I Have A Source Of Never Ending, Always Enduring, Life

E. Means That I Can Continually Experience The Wonder of Limitless Joy

IV. MAKING THE REALITY OF GOD'S PRESENCE REAL IN MY LIFE

The only way to find something is to look for it. God is all around you. He is trying to talk to you, trying to make a difference in your life. God is

seeking to show Himself to you in the day to day routine of your life, but the only way that you can see Him, the only way you can realize His presence is to set you mind and your heart to seek Him.

God outlines the method for find Him:

1. Call upon me: Acknowledge His presence.
2. Pray to me: Talk to God about all the issues in your life.
3. Seek me: Determine to find God's presence and to live God's will.
4. Search for me with your whole heart: Don't allow anything to distract you.