

## ***The Name Above Every Name***

*Matthew 1:18-25* - NCBC, February 24, 2019

Main Point: **The announcement of our King's arrival is life-changing.**

- **Jesus** means God will certainly save (21)
  - From sin's penalty
  - From sin's power
  - From sin's presence
  
- **Immanuel** means God is with us (23)
  - For our welfare
  - For our working
  - For our worship

Application: **Wake up and rest in Christ.**

### **Opening Announcements:**

- **New Adult Discipleship Electives** beginning Mar 10 @ 9:30a.  
Everyone encouraged to select a 12-week class for their joy!

<<Come Behold the Wonderous Mystery>>

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As we continue our worship of our Saving God now, please open your copy of God's Word to the **Gospel of Matthew, chapter 1** this morning.



If you don't have a Bible, simply raise your hand as people are coming now with Bibles for you to use in our worship together, and even take home as our gift to you.

As a defined assembly of born-again members, New Castle Bible Church exists to glorify God by growing deeper and reaching farther. Together we strive to share the fame of God's Name by growing in the head, heart, hands, and home of Christlikeness.

So now that we are already a couple of months into 2019, it might helpful to just glance in the rearview mirror and ask, how is God calling us to become more like Christ so far this year? Some have had a year full of suffering already. Others have already experienced the pressures of unexpected changes or loss. Or Sickness. Or Conflict. Or perhaps unexpected blessings. So do you have any ideas about what God is doing in and through you so far this year? For you personally, where

is God asking you to grow in faith, or truth, or love, or witness right now?

Is your heart open and soft to the sanctifying work of God's Holy Spirit in you? Or are you scared or angry about your experience in God's workshop so far? Are you intentionally cultivating habits of grace that fuel your satisfaction in the person and work of Jesus?

You see, every time we come to worship God through the reading and mediation of His Word, it is important we slow down enough to know what we are doing, and why we are doing it.

While our Sunday morning worship together is our habit, may it never be a mindless act of obligation for God's people. The feast is prepared church – come hungry and fuel your soul with life-giving truth! Weak and dependent souls discover increased joy and delight in Christ whenever they humbly behold King Jesus through His Word!



So this morning we turn our attention to the very familiar account of Jesus' birth in **Matthew chapter 1**. I actually preached this Scripture for our Christmas meditation just a couple of months ago. So this morning, we are going to study this Scripture again, but this time with a laser focused emphasis upon The Name Above Every Name.

Please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word as I read **Matthew 1:18-25** from the **ESV** translation. And as I read, pay special attention to the two different names that are assigned to Christ as Matthew presents his audience with their king:

*<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

Thus reads God's Word. You may be seated.

**Let's Pray.**

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW				
1-3 Presentation of the King				
4-7 Proclamation of the King <i>Sermon on the Mount (5-7)</i>	8-10 Power of the King <i>Sending out the 12 Apostles (10)</i>	11-13 Rejection of the King <i>Kingdom Parables (13)</i>	14-20 Priorities of the King <i>Topsy-Turvy Values (18)</i>	21-25 Progress of the King <i>Olivet Discourse (24-25)</i>
Kingdom offered to Israel			Kingdom offered to all Nations	
26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

The Gospel according to Matthew reveals Jesus as King in fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies. Like we taught in our overview message, **Matthew** can be outlined in 5 thematic sections, with each section ending with a related discourse of Jesus' teaching. Matthew has a high priority on Jesus' works and words. He personally experienced the life and ministry of the Christ first-hand, but now he writes to other Jews so they too might behold King Jesus and be set free from sin's entrapment!! And notice that these 5 sections of Matthew's gospel are bookended by 3 chapters of introduction, and 3 chapters of conclusion.

Today we finish **chapter 1**, where Matthew begins his presentation of the King – first with His earthly ancestry in **verses 1-17**, and then with His earthly arrival in **verses 18-25**.

Last week **verses 1-17** ushered us through 2,100 years of God's sovereign grace. A powerful grace that faithfully kept God's promise to bring forth a Savior from a

long-line of sinners like you and me! The entire history of God's chosen people from Abraham to Jesus offers hope to us: Not only is God always faithful to keep His promises, but God is also able to work through sinners like you and me for His glory. God's grace is greater than our sin!<sup>1</sup> He desires to work in and through you for His kingdom purposes. Get your focus off yourself. Stop comparing yourself with others. And turn your eyes upon King Jesus! He has good and mysterious plans for you to bring Him glory right where you are! Humbly submit to Him, and let His grace reign in your life!

Now this morning we focus on **verses 18-25** – the familiar record of the first Christmas. Matthew goes to great effort to communicate the virgin birth. Joseph was not Jesus' physical father – but rather Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The earthly arrival of the long-awaited Messiah came by a sign of supernatural wonder in fulfillment of God's prophets.<sup>2</sup> Matthew records how the legal fatherhood of Joseph proves Jesus has the legal rights to occupy David's throne, while his virgin birth preserves God's curse on the last king of Judah. According to God's curse in **Jeremiah 22:30**, no physical descendent of King Jeconiah would ever become the promised Messiah. Thus Matthew wants his Jewish audience to see the genius of God's grace in the virgin birth – fulfilling the Davidic Covenant while simultaneously bypassing King Jeconiah's line.<sup>3</sup>

And of course the virgin birth proves the deity of Christ as well. In the virgin birth,

<sup>1</sup> Romans 5:20

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 7:11

<sup>3</sup> Romans 1:3

*The Word become flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*<sup>4</sup>

By virtue of the virgin birth, Jesus is both 100% human and 100% God. He added humanity to his Divine nature in a mysterious miracle<sup>5</sup> so that Jesus is now forever the God-man. Still today as He intercedes for us in heaven – He is fully human and fully God.<sup>6</sup> Jesus forever makes God known to us.<sup>7</sup> He is the image of the invisible God.<sup>8</sup> The radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of God’s nature.<sup>9</sup>

So without the distracting glitter of American Christmas, this morning I want to just focus on the two names given to Christ at His advent. And my main point is simply that,



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<sup>4</sup> John 1:14

<sup>5</sup> Philippians 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup> 1 Timothy 2:5

<sup>7</sup> John 1:18; 17:3

<sup>8</sup> Colossians 1:15

<sup>9</sup> Hebrews 1:3

The announcement of our King’s arrival is life-changing.

King Jesus’ arrival should change everything in our lives!! And His two names help answer the question, “how so?” How should we live practically different today since God became a man? Since the promised, long-awaited King has arrived...and He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin Mary,<sup>10</sup> what’s that mean for us?

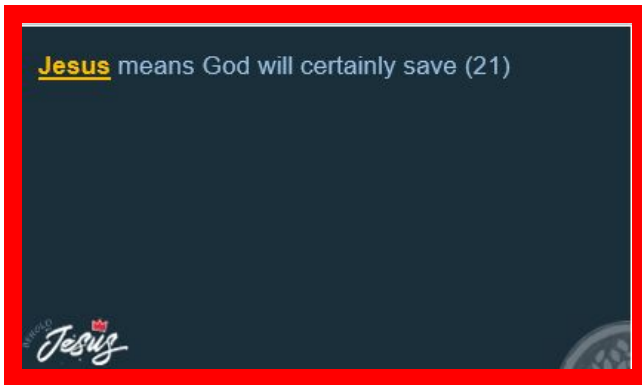
**Verses 20-21** introduce us to the first name. *Jesus*. God’s desired name for His Christ. In **verse 20** an angel appears to Joseph saying,

*Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*

Jesus is his God-given name. For,

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<sup>10</sup> Mary was a descendent of King David herself, thus supplying David’s physical flesh and blood to Jesus. The ancestry of Mary’s father (Joseph’s father-in-law), Heli/Eli, is traced back to David through his son Nathan in Luke 3:23-31. (Joseph was part of the Davidic kingly line through Solomon, Matthew 1:6-16.



### Jesus means God will certainly save (21)

The Hebrew word is Joshua, the Greek word is Jesus – and they both mean “Yahweh saves.” God will certainly save! Mentioned nearly 1,000 times in the New Testament, the name Jesus provides the scarlet connective tissue for all of God’s kingdom purposes in history.

**Verse 21** is clear, God specified this particular name for His incarnate Son with clear intention and purpose.

*You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins.*

You know sometimes as Christians we can use all kinds of Christian words and phrases without ever knowing what they mean.

The late pastor R.C. Sproul once shared an experience where a well-intentioned stranger abruptly stopped him on a college campus and asked him the question, “Are you saved?”<sup>11</sup> R.C. was startled by the abrupt question,

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-are-we-saved/>

and immediately replied, “Saved from what?” The evangelist was stumped... and stammered around not being able to answer R.C.’s question. You see, although he was using biblical words, he didn’t have a proper understanding of what they meant.

Would you know how to answer R.C.’s question?

Jesus means that God will certainly save you, but save or rescue or deliver you from what? What do you need to be saved from?

**Verse 21** provides a clear answer, right? Jesus will save His people ... from their sins. Let the profound clarity of that pierce through all of the lies of our self-serving culture today!!

Jesus wasn’t sent to save His people from the Romans. Jesus wasn’t sent to give you an abundant life of ease. Jesus wasn’t sent to save you from a life without purpose. Jesus didn’t come to save you from poverty or disease.

So lean over and tell your neighbor this morning, “Jesus came to save you from your sins!” <<Jesus came to save you from your sins.>>

That’s right! Every time we say the name Jesus, it’s a reminder that God sent Him to save His people from sin!

Now you can’t fully appreciate God’s salvation *from* sin until you have a biblical understanding *of* sin. The heart of human pride always seeks to redefine sin, so as to minimize its presence and danger in our own life. For



example, legalism defines sin based on man-made comparisons or human standards of righteousness.

I wonder if the weakness of the American church today isn't largely due to the fact that we have a very stunted and man-made understanding of sin.

I remember several years ago my wife and I met with a couple who had been married for over 50 years. We were so humbled by their long marriage. At one point we asked them, "Have you ever sinned against each other in 50 years of marriage?" And they looked shocked, and said immediately, "Why no. We've never sinned. Of course we have faults and failures...we're not perfect...but we've never *sinned* against each other."

This well-meaning couple illustrates how common it is to redefine sin. Sin sounds bad – it's so demeaning to our human pride – so we rename it as faults or failures.

Or, due to the effect of secular psychology in our education today, we now describe our sins using medical language. We refer to drunkenness as alcoholism, double-mindedness as bipolar disorder, and immorality as sexual addiction. What the Bible clearly calls sin, we now call disorders. And in the process, we remove *both* personal responsibility *and* hope for true and lasting change.

The saving grace of Jesus Christ will be foolishness to you until you understand your greatest problem is your own personal sin.<sup>12</sup> Not your parents' sins. Or your nation's sins. But your own personal sin is your greatest

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<sup>12</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23

problem in your life. Jesus means God will certainly save you from *your* sins.

So what's a biblical definition of sin?<sup>13</sup>

At its most fundamental root, **Romans 3:23** defines sin as falling short of the glory of God.<sup>14</sup> Sin is failing to acknowledge God with the worship and glory He alone deserves.<sup>15</sup> In other words, sin is a matter of the heart<sup>16</sup> before it's ever expressed outwardly by breaking God's law.<sup>17</sup> Sin is desiring or valuing something more than God Himself.<sup>18</sup> Sin is the making of any other god before our Creator.<sup>19</sup>

So throw away any old legalistic definitions of sin that define sin as just smoking, drinking, and dancing, or hanging out with girls who do. **Romans 7:8** teaches that sin, at its core, is idolatry – wanting anything, even if it's a good thing, more than we want the glory of God.<sup>20</sup> **Romans 14:23** teaches that *whatever does not proceed from faith is sin*. So sin is even believing I can do something good apart from union with Christ.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/definition-sin.html>;  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/what-is-sin-the-essence-and-root-of-all-sinning>

<sup>14</sup> Romans 3:23; 1:18

<sup>15</sup> Romans 1:28-32

<sup>16</sup> Mark 7:21-23; Matthew 15:18-19

<sup>17</sup> 1 John 3:4; 5:17

<sup>18</sup> Romans 1:25, 28

<sup>19</sup> Exodus 20:3

<sup>20</sup> Ephesians 5:5

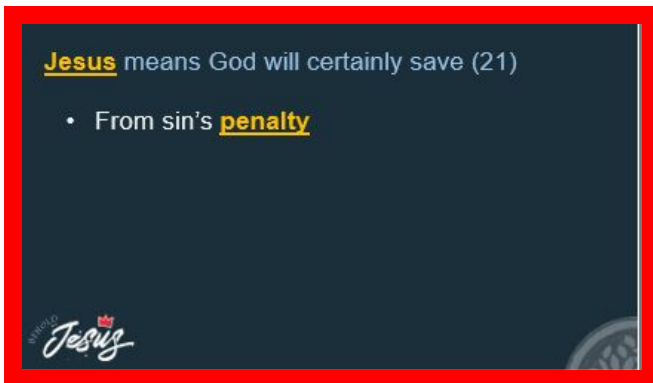
<sup>21</sup> Hebrews 11:6; c.f. Isaiah 64:6; Romans 8:8

Simply put, sin is just any failure to love Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength 24/7/365.<sup>22</sup>

This is sin, and this is our greatest problem, for according to **Romans 5:12**, every one of us is born a sinner. We all love the darkness rather than the light.<sup>23</sup> We suppress the truth, and deceive ourselves with Satan's lies.<sup>24</sup>

So against this black drop-cloth of the biblical definition of sin, understanding that every one of us has a huge problem with sin – now let's quickly describe the difference that Jesus makes.

Because God sent Jesus to save His people from their sins, when you repent – meaning you come awake to sin's lies and turn from the darkness – and believe on Jesus – meaning you trust His death and resurrection for your eternal life, God will certainly save you,

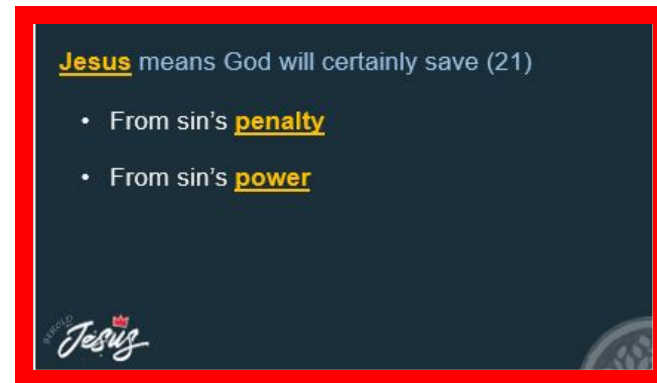


From sin's penalty

What is the penalty all sins earn? **Romans 6:23** teaches that *the wages of sin is death*. Church, our Savior's name is Jesus – and that means He has saved us from eternal damnation in hell. Theologians refers to this part of our salvation as Justification – for God rescues us from hell, and declares us perfectly righteous through our union with Christ. **Romans 5:9** says it this way,

*Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Jesus from the wrath of God.*

You see church, through Jesus, God saves us from Himself. God saves us from His own righteous wrath or anger against our sin. Jesus makes all the difference in the world, for through Jesus God will certainly save us from sin's penalty, and second,



From sin's power

Jesus was not just sent to rescue you from an eternity in hell. To save His people from their sins also includes

<sup>22</sup> Matthew 22:37-39.

<sup>23</sup> John 3:19

<sup>24</sup> Romans 1:18; John 8:43-44; 2 Timothy 2:25

deliverance from sin's power in our daily lives. Grace breaks sin's power so we no longer are enslaved to it!<sup>25</sup>

Christian – because of Jesus – you no longer have to sin! God's Spirit emancipates slaves to sin!<sup>26</sup> God's Spirit causes our hearts to be born again,<sup>27</sup> so that now we begin to truly love God and perceive Him as our highest good.<sup>28</sup>

Theologians refer to this aspect of our salvation as progressive sanctification – progressively over time becoming more and more like Jesus in how we actually love and live as grace helps us to become more conformed to the image of Christ.<sup>29</sup>

Now stop for a minute and consider both of these aspects of God's salvation of us through Jesus.

*You shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*

We all like the salvation from sin's penalty part, right? None of us want to go to hell. But if we're honest...we usually don't enjoy the being saved from sin's power. That often requires suffering. Time in God's workshop where he prunes our lives,<sup>30</sup> and calls us to find greater joy in Him by dying more to ourselves.<sup>31</sup> In fact, the reality

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<sup>25</sup> Romans 6:1-2, 6; Titus 2:11-12ff

<sup>26</sup> Galatians 5:16

<sup>27</sup> 1 Peter 1:3

<sup>28</sup> 1 Peter 1:8, 2:3

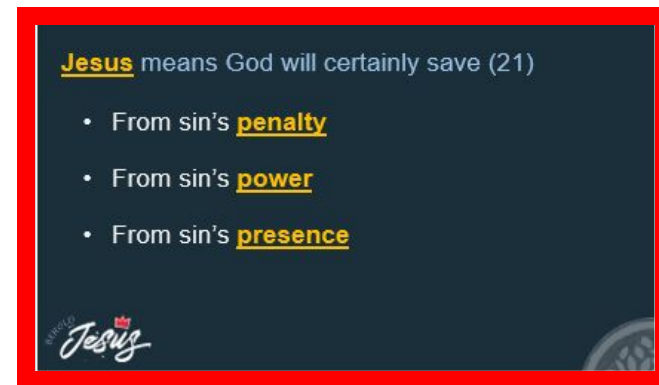
<sup>29</sup> Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:15, 22-24

<sup>30</sup> John 15:2

<sup>31</sup> Luke 9:23-24

of Christ-followers who are actually progressively growing in Christ-likeness is a testimony that our salvation is all from God, for God, and to God! He is the one who is faithful to finish what He begins.<sup>32</sup> It is His grace that trains us to renounce ungodliness.<sup>33</sup>

Jesus means God will certainly save from sin's penalty in the past, from sin's power in the present, and,



From sin's very presence in the future. 1 John 3:2 teaches that,

*We know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.*

This is our final glorification<sup>34</sup> – when the saving work of Jesus is ultimately complete,<sup>35</sup> and all of His people are gathered around His throne as we see in Revelation, worshipping in His presence with fullness of joy.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Philippians 1:6

<sup>33</sup> Titus 2:11-12ff

<sup>34</sup> Romans 8:29-30

<sup>35</sup> Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:22

<sup>36</sup> Psalm 16:11



All of this is the practical life-changing results of being saved from sin. No wonder God specifically charged Joseph to name the boy Jesus – for Jesus means God will certainly save His people from their greatest problem – sin’s penalty, sin’s power, and sin’s very presence.

Have you been saved? Not from sickness, or poverty, or disappointment. Have you been saved from your sin? Are you even today in the process of being saved from loving the gifts of God more than God Himself? Only those who have been born again by the Spirit of the living God are saved. Repentance and faith in Jesus is the only way to be saved from your own sin.<sup>37</sup> Today many believe they are saved because they are moral, or they made a decision, or they satisfied a number of religious requirements.<sup>38</sup> But you cannot save yourself.<sup>39</sup> Only Jesus is able to save His people from their sins.

Today is a day of salvation. God commands you to repent, that your sins may be blotted out, and times of refreshing may come to your soul.<sup>40</sup>

Finally, this morning, let’s look briefly at **verses 22-23**, where Matthew adds this commentary:

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a*

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<sup>37</sup> John 14:6; Acts 2:38

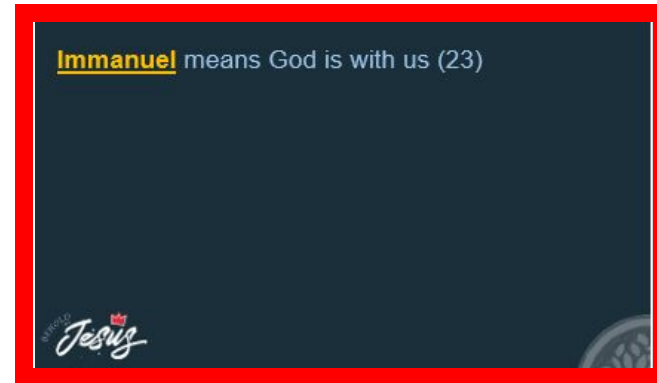
<sup>38</sup> Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>39</sup> John 1:12-13; 3:5; 6:37, 44, 63-65; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:29; 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 1 Peter 1:3

<sup>40</sup> Acts 3:19-20

*son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, (which means, God with us).*

Immanuel is the second name assigned to Christ in Matthew’s presentation of His earthly arrival and,



Immanuel means God is with us.

The virgin birth of Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of **Isaiah 7:14**. It is a miraculous and wonderful sign from God that He has preserved a remnant of His people through history, and no part of His promises shall ever fail. God is with us. He has not left His people as orphans. God Himself is among us, and what a practical difference that should make!

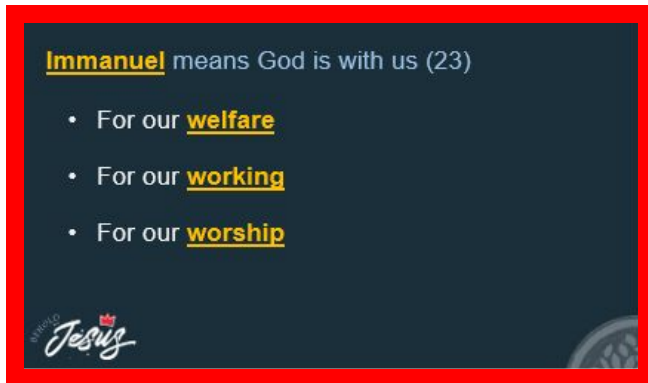
Now that Jesus has rose from the dead and ascended into the heavens, and sent His Spirit to dwell among us – Jesus truly is with us always – even to the end of the age!<sup>41</sup> He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Matthew 28:20

<sup>42</sup> Hebrews 13:7

Church – Matthew is arguing that the sending of Jesus as Immanuel means God is now with us forever. And this is,



For our welfare, for our working, and for our worship

First, Jesus is sent for our welfare. **John 14:18** says that *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you*. He comes first to rescue us from sin, so that we can know God personally and not be judged, but rather be welcomed, and loved, and cherished!

But there's something even more profound about God taking on flesh to dwell among His people – and that is that He is with us in our suffering. Dear Christian – God is not away on vacation somewhere while you are hurting and suffering here in this life. Jesus is God with us.

Throughout Matthew's Gospel he demonstrates that Jesus is the Mighty God who is actively present with the sick,<sup>43</sup> the demon-possessed,<sup>44</sup> the poor in spirit,<sup>45</sup> the

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<sup>43</sup> Matthew 4:23

<sup>44</sup> Matthew 4:24

anxious,<sup>46</sup> the lepers,<sup>47</sup> the diseased,<sup>48</sup> the hungry,<sup>49</sup> the handicapped,<sup>50</sup> and the lost.<sup>51</sup>

Someone here this morning needs to hear this good news today. Jesus is Immanuel – and that means He knows everything you are going through, and He is right here with you. God with us. He cares for you.<sup>52</sup> And that changes how you perceive every situation, right?

But just as the closing verse of Matthew's gospel testifies, Jesus is sent to be God with us for the benefit of our working and witnessing as well.

Just think of how differently you and I would live if we were more conscious that the Mighty God was personally with us in every conversation, while we were doing our taxes, when we were turning on the screen, etc.

There can be no spiritual ministry or work apart from the fruit of the Spirit.<sup>53</sup> So God's presence secures our well-being, empowers our witness, and fuels our worship – since **Psalm 16:11** teaches that in God's presence is the fullness of joy.

As a review, here's our main point:

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<sup>45</sup> Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>46</sup> Matthew 6:25-34

<sup>47</sup> Matthew 8:1-4

<sup>48</sup> Matthew 8:14-17

<sup>49</sup> Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-39

<sup>50</sup> Matthew 12:13; 15:31

<sup>51</sup> Matthew 18:11

<sup>52</sup> 1 Peter 5:7; c.f. Romans 8:31ff

<sup>53</sup> John 15:5; Galatians 5:22-23



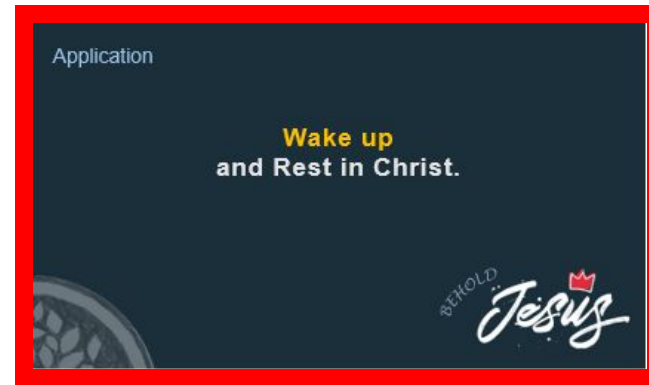
The announcement of our King's arrival is life-changing.

When God sends Jesus to this earth, everything changes. For His name is Jesus – our Savior from sin, and His name is Immanuel – all-powerful God who is with us.

So then, how shall we respond to these truths this morning? In **Matthew 1:24**,

*When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

Just like Joseph may we also,



Wake up and rest in Christ.

Wake up and go to sleep church!! Wake up from your sinful slumber, and trust that God is truly good. Wake up from sin's lies, and ask God to give you a new heart that loves Him, and delights to know Him!

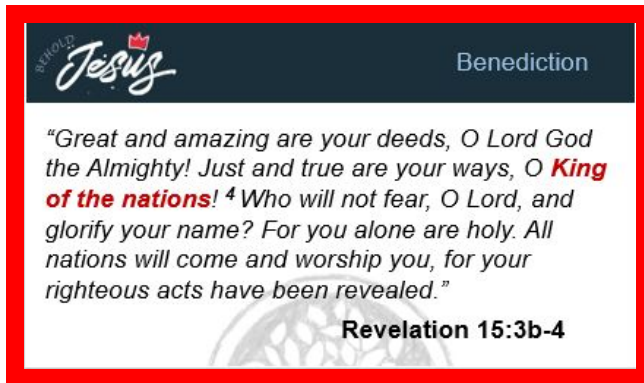
The arrival of King Jesus is very good news loved ones. For He came to save us from our sins, and always dwell with us forever.

**Let's pray.**



<<Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



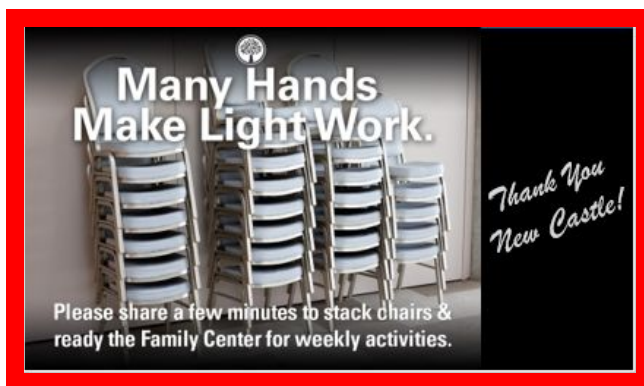
A slide with a dark blue header containing the word "Jesus" in a white cursive font with a crown above it. To the right of the header is the word "Benediction" in white. The main body of the slide is white with black text. At the bottom, there is a faint circular logo.

*"Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O **King of the nations!** <sup>4</sup>Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

**Revelation 15:3b-4**

*Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! <sup>4</sup>Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

**Revelation 15:3b-4**



A slide with a black background. On the left, there is a photograph of several white plastic chairs stacked together. The text "Many Hands Make Light Work." is written in white over the top of the chairs. To the right of the chairs, the text "Thank You New Castle!" is written in a white cursive font. At the bottom left, there is a white text box with black text.

**Many Hands Make Light Work.**

*Thank You New Castle!*

Please share a few minutes to stack chairs & ready the Family Center for weekly activities.

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### Excursus on Isaiah 7-9

Matthew 1:23 quotes from **Isaiah 7:14**, which actually has a fascinating context. In **verse 1** of **Isaiah 7**, Judah is attacked by a wicked alliance of Israel and Syria. God sends the prophet Isaiah with one of his sons to King Ahaz, to call him to be firm in his faith that God will not allow Israel and Syria to succeed.<sup>54</sup>

Then in **verse 10**, Isaiah invites King Ahaz to *ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven*. In other words, God wants to communicate in some miraculous way that He will be faithful to His Davidic Covenant. His promises to raise up a Messiah from Judah will come to pass. But King Ahaz didn't take God seriously, and blew Him off in **verse 11**. So the Lord responds with this well-known promise in **verse 14**,

*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 virgin birth of a child named Immanuel will be a supernatural Divine sign from God that He is preserving a remnant of His people, and His kingdom purposes will still come to pass.

Then interestingly, the rest of **Isaiah 7 and 8** describe how Isaiah bore a son with his wife who was not a virgin,<sup>55</sup> whom they named Immanuel,<sup>56</sup> meaning God with us,<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Isaiah 7:1-9

<sup>55</sup> For she already had conceived Shear-jashub with Isaiah, c.f. Isaiah 7:3

<sup>56</sup> Isaiah 8:3, also called Maher-shalal-hash-baz, meaning "quick to the

and how this boy Immanuel was a sign of God's judgment against Judah for their continued disobedience against God.<sup>58</sup> God uses the birth of Isaiah's son Immanuel to warn Judah of the impending invasion by the Assyrians. Judah would be plunged into the darkness of exile, but then in the next chapter, **in chapter 9 of Isaiah**, God gives hope that a light will shine on them again from Galilee.<sup>59</sup>

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*<sup>60</sup>

To us is born a child whose name shall be called Mighty God. God with us. Immanuel. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Matthew applies these glorious prophecies of Isaiah to the arrival of King Jesus in **Matthew 1**.

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plunder, swift to the spoil"

<sup>57</sup> Isaiah 8:10

<sup>58</sup> Isaiah 7:15-25; 8:4-10; 18. Note to eat curds and honey was the poor diet of peasants, signifying the failure of their agricultural economy (7:23-25)

<sup>59</sup> Isaiah 9:1

<sup>60</sup> Isaiah 9:6-7

## **Recommended Resources on The Name Above Every Name:**

- Genesis 3:15
- Job 19:25-27
- Psalm 2:2
- Isaiah 7:14; 8:2-3, 10; 9:6
- Matthew 18:20; 28:20
- John 1:29
- Galatians 3:13
- 1 Timothy 2:5-6
- Titus 2:12
- 2 Peter 1:1
- Hebrews 2:10; 5:9; 12:2
- 1 John 2:1
  
- <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/immanuel/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/what-makes-christmas-merry>
- <https://www.tms.edu/m/msj22c.pdf>
  
- *The Attributes of God*, A.W. Pink
- *Putting Jesus in His Place*, Bowman & Komoszewski
- *No One Like Him*, Feinberg

## **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

1. Read Matthew 1:21. Discuss what it means to be saved. Saved from what? Saved from who? Saved for what? Saved for who?
2. Read Matthew 1:22-23. Then read Isaiah 7:3-4, 10-17; 8:1, 3-4, 8-10, 18; 9:6-7. Explain the concept of double fulfillment for Isaiah's prophecy in light of Jesus' birth. How is Jesus' birth both a blessing and a judgment to mankind?
3. Read John 1:18-19 and Romans 8:9-11. Do you live as if God is with you? What does it mean for you to practice the presence of God? What practical difference does the indwelling of God's Spirit make in your life?
4. Read 1 John 1:5-2:2. In the context, what does it mean to "walk in the light"? When is the last time you confessed your own personal sin to anyone else? Why is public repentance so difficult? ...so necessary? If we aren't walking in the light with our sins, is Jesus really our Savior?
5. Read Psalm 16:11. What keeps God's people from being the most joyful and free people in the world? Pray 2 Corinthians 3:18 for one another, that God would bring life-change to each of you through a greater comprehension of Christ's glory and goodness as revealed in the Scriptures.