

God With Us

One of the great things about this time of the year is that more people are concentrating on Jesus Christ than at any other time of the year. Although we don't really know exactly when Jesus was born, Christmas time gives millions of people world-wide the opportunity to celebrate the birth of the Savior. I feel much like Paul did when he said in **Philippians 1:15-18** that some were preaching Christ out of what he called "false motives." Still, his conclusion was:

"...what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice."

Many in the world are being exposed to at least a rudimentary knowledge of the Christ story during this time. Maybe someone will be inspired to investigate further. And maybe, just maybe, their investigation will lead to their obedience to the truth.

Jesus was the fulfillment of a number of Old Testament prophecies concerning the much-awaited Messiah. Matthew tells the story of the announcement made by the angels to Joseph, telling him Mary, his betrothed, was pregnant with a child conceived of the Holy Spirit. In **Matthew 1:23**, Matthew says that this event had been prophesied by Isaiah:

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God **with us**").

And from that time on, God truly HAS been with us. And we are to remain with Him and with Jesus Christ, our "God with us." Scripture bears it out:

1. "Whoever is not **with me** is against me." (Matthew 12:30)
2. "**With God** all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)
3. "I am **with you** always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)
4. "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you **with me** that you also may be where I am." (John 14:3)
5. "We are therefore buried **with Him** through baptism into death...we will certainly be also be united **with Him** in a resurrection like His." (Romans 6:4-5)
6. "If we died **with Him**, we will also live **with Him**; if we endure, we will also reign **with Him**." (2 Timothy 2:11-12)

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7. "If we claim to have fellowship **with Him** and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth."
(1 John 1:6)
8. "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be **with the Lord** forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

I think you get the idea. God came to live with us in the form of Jesus Christ. We are united with Him in baptism. We are to walk with Him in this life, doing His will. He promises to be with us to the very end. And He will take us to live with Him eternally when our time on this earth is over.