

*Emmanuel*  
*Turnpike Wesleyan Church – December 13, 2020*

**Scripture Texts: Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:23**

**Isaiah 7:14** ... The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

**Matthew 1:23** ... Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

*Introduction*

In different circumstances and in different situations, that question has become the cry of all humanity: “Is there any hope?”

John Wesley upon his deathbed, said these words: “The best of all is this: God is with us.” Think of that for a moment.

Did you know this word is only mentioned 3 times in Scripture? It is mentioned twice in Isaiah and once in Matthew.

*Emmanuel ... God with us in the flesh!*

This truth is fundamental to everything else. It is such an amazing truth that Paul, who had so much revealed to him by the Lord, called it a mystery!

I Timothy 3:16 ... “without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.”

What a gift! As we prepare to celebrate the “babe in the manger,” let us not forget “the submitting Christ.” He laid aside the glory he had with the Father – the worship of the adoring angelic host – the sublime sinless perfection of heaven – and came and dwelt among us “full of grace and truth.”

The Apostle Paul picks up this point and even gives more detail in Philippians 2:8 ... “He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death - even to death on a cross.” This is the very reason he came in the flesh. He came this way to identify with us and live a spotless life so that He could die for us, which brings me to my second thought.

*Emmanuel ... God with us as our Redeemer*

Because we were unable to save ourselves, He came to bring **salvation** to us, but at what a cost. Good **works** were marred by our sinful nature, so they would not do. Silver and **gold**, and all that it represents could not pay the price of our salvation; one soul is of more value than the total wealth of the whole world. Sin had to be dealt with by **death!**

It really is an astounding fact that he didn't share just a **portion** of himself with us when he entered our world, but he has given us everything we need, and more! This brings me to a third thought.

*Emmanuel ... God with us in all his **fullness***

This is about God actually being with us! He is not at the end of a **telephone** line to a call center in heaven (sorry the lines are all busy now, please call later). Some heavenly angelic being is not representing God. He is not on a wonderful 70" **television** screen with a transmission from celestial studios (what if we had a power outage right in the middle of an important Divine Discourse?).

God did not just give us a **manual** but he sent **Emmanuel!**

*Emmanuel ... God with us **always***

I came to the conclusion that I would rather believe God's **promise**, than a person's **feelings!** That has helped me many times since, even when my own feelings have raised questions.

God's Word is **sure** and certain, and does not depend on our feelings, but on God being **unchangeable**.

When the Children of Israel came out of Egypt, the Lord showed them how to make a place for him to meet with them as they journeyed – the **Tabernacle**. Later he showed them how to build a **Temple** in which they could meet with him. Now he has us, the **Church**, where he delights to reside. What an incredible gift – the gift of his **continual** presence.