

Reference: MATT 1:18-25

Church: GRACE Date: 12/29/13

---

---

## **Immanuel**

Purpose: To see how fully Jesus lives up to His name, and how this name challenges us for the New Year

### **1 Introduction**

Conventional to have a sermon on the incarnation before Christmas

There are now about 361 days to Christmas – time to get ready!

I thought this would be a good theme for this morning anyway –

I am doing an occasional series on the names of Jesus

Never better time to look at “Immanuel”

AND Great New Year Message

Last week – the infinite stoop Jesus took, how we should respond

This week, what this name means to God and should mean to us

We will consider “Immanuel,” “God with Us,” as a Name:

- Of Commitment
- Of Condescension
- Of Comfort
- Of Confidence and Courage
- Of Contentment
- Of Commission and Challenge
- Of Conversion or Condemnation

### **2 A Name of Commitment**

Meaning, Jesus’ and God’s Commitment to save fallen man

Jesus had always been with His people – before the incarnation

He was with them in Exodus, we saw – Immanuel in a first sense

Burning Bush, Pillar of Cloud and Fire, Water from the Rock, Manna

Appeared as the “Angel of the Lord” in the time of Joshua and Judges

He appeared **at special times** as a man, not yet having taken flesh

But God promised more, something vital to fit Him as Savior

He had to become truly and fully one of us; **had to dwell among us**

That’s what is about to happen in our text, God with us as a man!

The virgin is about to bear “Immanuel” - (quotes Isa 700 yrs)

Shows God still fully committed to the plan He had spelled out all along

Jesus to be “Immanuel” – not occasional visitor but resident in flesh!

Immanuel - “God with us” in a second sense

### 3 **A Name of Condescension**

Will not dwell on this – focus of last week’s messages

His Commitment to save us led to His Condescension to be with us

**John 1:14** — And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God took flesh – was made in the likeness of sinful man

Was subject to human limitations and difficulties, except for sin

John literally say He “tabernacled” among us –

He pitched His tent (body) among our tents

Like the presence of God in the OT tabernacle

At the heart of the camp of the Israelites.

Matchless condescension – “God with us” – dwelling among us!

### 4 **A Name of Comfort**

We need to understand that “Immanuel” means more – 3<sup>rd</sup> sense

Not “just” that Jesus took flesh and dwelt among His people

**John 14:16-20** — “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

When His tent ascended to heaven, Immanuel in yet another sense

After His victory on the cross & ascension, He poured out the Spirit

The Spirit of Jesus came to live within believers

Now God is more fully & intimately with them than ever before!

Not “merely” an occasional visitor at special times

He has not “merely” pitched His tent among our tents

Now He has moved in! He has not left us as orphans – He will not

Jesus intended this knowledge to be a comfort to His disciples

It should be a comfort to us today. We are never alone.

Jesus is with us – Immanuel, dwelling in our hearts!

***Jesus with you should be your comfort for the New Year too!***

## 5 **A Name of Confidence and Courage**

He came by His Spirit to dwell in each of His people

Therefore we may have confidence and courage for the here and now

**Romans 8:31** — What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Could God have done all this

Could Jesus be our Immanuel, living in our hearts

Only to evacuate and abandon us? Certainly not!

Then who can harm us? Whom shall we fear? What can man do to us?

Shouldn't we be confident, courageous in Him?

*Ask great things from Him, attempt great things for Him*

But His indwelling also gives us confidence for the future

**Colossians 1:26–27** — ...the preaching of the Word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The Spirit of Christ is a downpayment – a deposit

He witnesses with our spirits that we are children of God

He guarantees that we will never be lost

His presence in us confirms our place in heaven

He causes us to long to be there, at home with the Lord

This is the hope of glory!

***Be confident, have courage in your Immanuel now & throughout 2014!***

## 6 **A Name of Contentment**

His being with us is our confidence for now and for the future

It should also make us content, says writer to the Hebrews:

**Hebrews 13:5** — Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

Be content with what you have – Immanuel – God with you!

There is a five-fold negation in this verse (**HYMN**) – very emphatic

He wants us to be very sure that He is our Immanuel forever

This should be the answer to our avarice and greed – we have Him!

This should be the antidote to our worldly Christmas celebrations

Believer, you have Immanuel living in your heart!

He gave Himself for you, He has given Himself to you  
He is never going to forsake you! What more could you want?  
Shouldn't this make you content?  
If Jesus dwelling in you doesn't do this, what will it take?  
Can you see how hurtful it is when you are not content  
When you go running off after other things and desert Him?  
**Find your contentment in Immanuel during this coming year!**

## **7 A Name of Commission and Challenge**

Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us – we should be content  
He will especially be with us as we take the Gospel out

**Matthew 28:18–20** — And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

He has commissioned us to be His messengers and ambassadors  
He has made us His instruments to declare the message of this life  
As long as the church is militant on earth, she has this work to do  
And as long as she does this work, Jesus is her Immanuel – with her  
That is the promise in this text  
He didn't save us for nothing! He doesn't live in us to no purpose!  
We are to spread His Name far and wide, and as our Immanuel  
He will be with us to give life and power to the message  
He will raise the spiritually dead, enter hearts by His Spirit,  
Become Immanuel to those who will receive Him  
**Let's take on the Commission in 2014, Jesus will be our Immanuel!**

## **8 A Name of Conversion or Condemnation**

If Jesus is your Immanuel, it follows that you are saved

**1 John 4:15–16** — Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

He does not come to dwell with those who are Satan's minions  
He takes up residence in those He has set free  
So to you, Christian “Immanuel” is a name of special significance

God is with you, God is in you, He is your life!

If, though, you haven't come to Jesus, this Name is condemnation

**John 3:36** — “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

He has been Immanuel through the ages

He took flesh to be the only Savior. Lived on earth bodily for a while

Now He is Immanuel living in His people

He is their:

- Comfort – they will never be alone
- Confidence – what can man do to them? Future and Hope
- Contentment – all in all
- Commission and Challenge – they have purpose

In short, He is their life

And you know that He is willing to be all of that to you too

You know He is willing to set you free from sin

To make you alive in Him

To live in you by His Spirit

To give you a future and a hope

But you will have none of it - you don't want Him

You will not have Him as Immanuel – God with you

What shall we say to you?

## **9 Conclusions**

What a wonderful name this is for Jesus!

Occasional visitor; took flesh; came to dwell in us

How marvelous that He is no remote, far off God

Who wound up the universe and then went off on vacation

He is near - In Him we live and move and have our being

But we may also have Him dwelling in us as our Immanuel

Can you imagine what 2014 would be like for this fellowship

If Jesus was more fully our Immanuel – our Conversion, Comfort, Confidence, Contentment, Commission and Challenge?

And if we lived fully in the light of God being with and in us forever?