

ADVENT: WEEK FOUR

# Christmas Day

*God With Us*

Matthew 1:23; Luke 2:6-7



Merry Christmas! On this day of celebration, I'll be brief. Just one question, in fact? Where is Satan's power PERVASIVE and OBVIOUS in your life? Where does the enemy have you by the throat? Dear one, PRAISE THE LORD RIGHT THERE, RIGHT NOW! As highly favored children of the King, we don't praise Him only in the absence of pain or fear or doubt or loneliness...we don't praise Him only in the absence of need or questions or weariness or feelings that we don't matter... BECAUSE we don't praise in ABSENCE at all; we praise in the PRESENCE of our great Savior! He is EMMANUEL! He is God WITH us! We praise in His presence. We don't praise Him because of bad things...we praise Him because He is WITH US in the bad things! And we praise Him because we believe that if He is here... EVERYTHING is possible.

If He is here...He is enough . One of my favorite Christmas carols is "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen". The comma is after the word MERRY, and it's an old English blessing. It means, "May God keep you secure in a place of happiness and blessing". That is sound theology! Jesus came to DESTROY the power of the enemy...not to MITIGATE the works of the devil...not to help you FEEL BETTER about the works of the devil...not to help you COPE with the works of the devil...BUT TO DESTROY the works of the devil. Jesus came to make it possible for you to live in the presence of your Savior. And if you'll PRAISE your Savior NOW...not waiting for the absence of pain or grief, or sickness or problems, or loneliness or hardship...but rather praise Him for His PRESENCE...you open the door to...EVERYTHING. Gabriel told us that with GOD, EVERYTHING is possible. And guess what? You are with God, because God is now with you. He is IMMANUEL! And if He is here, He is enough. That is CHRISTMAS!

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“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.



"Fear not," then said the angel, "Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a saviour Of a pure virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in him From Satan's pow'r and might"  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

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