

Teaching Series: 2 Timothy
Passage: 2 Timothy 4:22
Title: A Christmas Devotional

(2 Timothy 4:22 NKJV) The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Emmanuel

The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit..... and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, “God with us”. The Lord, Jesus Christ be with your spirit. His name is Emmanuel, God with us, and with your spirit points us to that it's a spiritual thing. Now I am not going to go on a rant (haha) the ole Christmas has become too commercialized sermon (that are easy picking for a Christmas sermon), rather I just want to bring you – tidings of great joy, what we celebrate is “a spirit” thing.

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Luke 2:8–12 (NKJV) ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

What Does Christmas Mean?

Have you ever stopped to ponder and consider, what does Christmas mean? Not the season or the day, but the word “Christmas”. If you research the word, you actually don't find a pure tracing to the origin or the beginning use. We can see the Christ part clearly, and Christ means “anointed one, and was word to declare the “Messiah”. But how about the other part, “mas”?

- The most common agreed meaning is the compound words “Christ” and “Mass”, and it was meant to mean “the special worship service” to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- Other competing meanings and theories come from the Old English, Cristes-messe, which again most agree is “Christ's Mass”, but the origin of the word “mass” in the Christian sense is not entirely clear, as we know it comes the Latin “missa”, and in a verb sense it means “something that has been sent”, and so we would read it to say “The Christ has been sent”, and I like that one too.
- Another is another form of the Latin word “missa” meaning “dismissal”, and I like that because “The Sent One has come to dismiss”, and that is the Law that made us guilty before God.
- And another, is that the word “missah” is actually a Hebrew word, and the word for “unleavened bread”, which God commanded to offered with the Passover sacrifice in Exodus. Unleavened bread represented the absence of sin (hence the Perfect Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world – John 1:29), and I like this one too.

Colossians 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Exodus 12:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Why Bethlehem?

Bethlehem, the City of David. We know the story of the census, we know the prophecies that needed to be fulfilled, but there is more. Bethlehem is only 5 miles from Jerusalem where the Temple was, where the Passover Lambs would be sacrificed. We all know Micah 5:2, probably a bunch of Christmas cards on your shelf quoting it. But, did you know Micah 4:8, just a few verses before? It reads O' tower of the flock (Migdel-Eder), which is considered by many (not all I should clarify) to be a tower located there near Bethlehem. In any case, we read it was a watchtower of the flock. Bethlehem, where the angel announced to the shepherds, the Christ was born. The correlation is this..... Bethlehem is where the first-born sheep were placed, kept, raised that were destined for the Temple, and to be sacrificed. Hence why the Lamb of God, the Final Passover sacrifice, would be born. So.....why Bethlehem and why shepherds? Because the watchtower of the flock, it's where the lambs for the temple sacrifice were birthed and raised for perfection, for only a spotless lamb could be sacrificed for the covering of sin. Jesus would atone, cleanse, wipe away sin once and for all sin.

Micah 5:2 (NKJV) ² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting."

Micah 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ And you, O tower of the flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."

Luke 2:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Corinthians 5:7–8 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The Gift!

Roman 6:23, it's a gift. He's Jesus Christ, God's gift to you to preach Christmas without sin and the wages of sin is death doesn't make sense. How is Christmas good news without the why it's good news? God gave you a gift, His eternal Son for eternal life.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Grace-Mas

Brings us back to the passage we started with, - and it goes on to say "Grace be with you".

2 Timothy 4:22 (NKJV) ²² The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Grace, G-R-A-C-E,

God's – riches - at - Christ's - expense.

- G, God gifted us the gift of God
- and riches of God, are the riches of eternal life.
- At is where it is found
- C - Christ. He's Jesus, God's gift to you.
- E is the expense. This gift is a gift we could never afford ourselves. See our gift is not only precious, the Babe of Bethlehem, but priceless.

Do you realize now more than ever we all live at an @ sign? Email address and websites are all @ a specific location.

At, it's a location. Where can you find me? The Lord makes it simple. The Lord made it clear.

- Here's where you can find me, in a manger in Bethlehem, lowly, approachable, unassuming, a baby
- and He would be the same when He road into Jerusalem that final week known as His triumphal entry. He came lowly, riding on a donkey and he went lowly to a cross.

Matthew 21:4-7 (NKJV) ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'" ⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

The perfect @ sign, the manger and the cross.

He invites us to meet Him, two very clear places, the manger and the cross. Not hidden where we find Him. A star pointed the way and a heavenly host, a shout and a light and God speaks, "Find Me so you can follow Me.", @Jesus.

And He says, "You'll seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart," Jeremiah 29 and God invites you to meet Him at the manger and the cross.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Here is very clearly where you can find Me (the manger and the cross), and follow me, and it is all G-R-A-C-E, God's Riches @ Christ's Expense.

The first mention of grace in the Bible is Noah found grace and I point to you to see that it then says in the eyes of God and the first thing to say to you this Christmas is that God sees you this Christmas.

Genesis 6:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Paul was known as the apostle of grace because he knew that he had received it. And when you receive it, you know it, and you know the gift that has been given to you. 2 Timothy began with grace and it ends with grace. So God's love letter that He writes to mankind when He walked this earth was beginning with a manger grace and ending with a cross grace because it's a gift. The gift is at Christ.

2 Timothy 1:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 4:22 (NKJV) ²² The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Grace be with you this Christmas and may I even say.....Merry Grace-mas.

