

God With Us

Over the course of December we have been focusing on how God secured our hope. Last week we were in Romans and Hebrews looking at how Abraham played a role in our hope. We learned that we can trust God. He is faithful to every promise He makes. Today, we're going to look at God's greatest desire in creating us ... His desire to be with us... so much that He was willing to send His Son here to live with us and for us in becoming our atonement for sin. What is so significant about His coming?

I. What God Desired From the Beginning

- A. Genesis 2 describes the world before sin. It was a world of perfection.
 - 1. 2.16-17 - all the blessings were conditional.
 - a) 2.17: One restriction. One test.
 - b) There was no reason to disobey, doubt, resent God.
 - 2. God is amazingly generous. He gave His best to us. He created us to relate to Him.
- B. Adam & Eve *destroyed that relationship with selfishness...*

II. God Moves to Restore the Relationship

- A. After the Garden: Man destroyed his relationship with God *because of a lack of faith...*
- B. Abraham & the Patriarchs: Even with direct interaction, *man failed to understand God.*
- C. Moses in Egypt: God thwarted all the gods of Egypt, yet men *failed to trust God's power.*
- D. In the Wilderness: Red Sea crossed, fed with manna, yet they doubted *His ability to provide.*
- E. In the Conquest: God defeated the enemy — mightily, yet *many still turned away from Him.*
- F. With the Judges: God desired to rescue, yet *they quit thinking they needed Him.*
- G. In the kingdom: God demonstrated patience as they *trusted their king more than their God.*
- H. With the Prophets: People were *deaf and blind* to their message. So what did God do?

III. God sent Jesus

- A. Matthew 1.21: *She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him **Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins.*

IV. Today, It is Appropriate to Focus on Jesus' Birth

- A. Galatians 4.4-5: *When the time came to **completion**, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*
 - 1. Note 4.5: Because Jesus was born, we can receive the **adoption** as sons.
 - 2. Note 4.6-7: *And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a **son**, and if a son, then God has made you an heir.*
- B. 1 Peter 1.3-4: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*
- C. 1 John 3.1: *See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's **children**—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him.*

V. As We Close...

- A. Only God could concoct a plan that works like this. Only "God with us" can become God in us. God is still with us.... He lives in us through His Spirit, Galatians 4.6.
- B. And because of Jesus' work on the cross, *there is now no condemnation for those **in Christ** Jesus*, Romans 8.1.
- C. We are forgiven, redeemed, and sanctified unto him, *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his **Spirit who lives in you***, Romans 8.11.
 - 1. Does He live in you?
 - 2. There is no more important question you will ever answer.