

INTENTIONAL PRESENCE

Sermon Series : Intentional Christmas

Speaker : Brad Peterson

Date : December 1, 2019

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

(Matt 1:22-23 NIV)

Jer 29:11

- *Intentional*: Done on purpose; Deliberate
- Synonyms: calculated; conscious; done on purpose; intended; planned; meant; considered; studied; willful; purposed; premeditated; preplanned; thought out in advance; prearranged; preconceived; predetermined

Psalm 139:13-16 ESV (see UNINTENTIONAL PURPOSE VERSION on next page)

Psalm 139:13-16 (Brad's *Unintentional Purpose Version*):

For my inward parts were accidentally assembled; I randomly came together in my mother's womb. I ignore you, for I am unintentionally and incidentally made. Unexpected is this ultimately unimportant happening; my soul knows it very well. My frame may (or may not) be hidden from you, as I was certainly not being “made” in secret (at least not on purpose), but still happen to have some intricately woven attributes. Your eyes may (or may not have) seen my unformed substance; and I wonder if my days are written in your book, even one of them, and if my days were formed for me, or if everything in my life is just aimless and meaningless.

Q: What are God's Intentions for you this Christmas? (Rom 8:28-30)

1. Christ came not just to save us, but to be with us (Matt 1:18-23; Heb 4:15)

- God's Presence = Jesus

2. Presence is not just that we show up, but in how we show up (Phil 2:1-8)

- “Wherever you are, be all there.” -Jim Elliot

3. Being Intentional with our Presence means:

- a. Being intentional with our COMMITMENT.
- b. Being intentional with our ENGAGEMENT.
- c. Being intentional with our FEELINGS & EXPERIENCE.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite part of the Christmas story AND WHY?
2. What evidence can you come up with to demonstrate God's intentionality?
 - a. In Scripture?
 - b. From your own life?
3. Read Matt 1:18-23.
 - a. What are the implications of God as “Emmanuel - God with us)?
 - b. Why is it so hard to remember/be aware of this?
 - c. What can you do to increase your conscious awareness?
4. What is ONE THING you can commit to during the advent season in order to live with *Intentional Presence*?

(see next page!)

PRAYER & UPDATES

Continue to pray for [favor](#) and [finalization](#) with the lingering processing!

- [Pray for favor and finalization with the lending process.](#) Pray that we would break ground in January!
- [Pray for all the people who have contributed to FTK.](#) Ask God to multiply what was given, and to return blessing upon those who have contributed.
- [Pray those who attend Christmas Eve service.](#) This is a key evangelistic opportunity. Pray for our church to extend invites, and for those who come to be led into the arms of Jesus.