**FOCUS** in 2020

December 27, 2020

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**GOD WITH US**

***Always –*** Matthew 1:18–23; John 14:15–21



**Incarnation** - **God** became **flesh** in the person of **His son** Jesus.

God did not **shout** His love from heaven. He **showed** His love   
by coming to earth!

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and* ***you shall call his name Jesus****, for* ***he will save his people from their sins****.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “****Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,***

***and they shall call his name Immanuel****” (which means,* ***God with us****).* Matthew 1:18–23

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and* ***shall call his name Immanuel.*** Isaiah 7:14

What’s in a name?

*For to us* ***a child is born****, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be* ***called Wonderful Counselo****r,* ***Mighty God****,* ***Everlasting Father****,* ***Prince of Peace****.* Isaiah 9:6

***The best of all is, God is with us.*** John Wesley

God with us is the best news of **everyday** ...not just one’s final day, and that in Jesus, God has come to **us** to live **with** us and **in** us.

Jesus is **God** with us.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and* ***the Word was God.*** *He was in the beginning with God.* John 1:1–2

*And the* ***Word became flesh and dwelt among us****, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* John 1:14

Jesus is God **with** us.

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and* ***he will give you another Helper****,* ***to be with you forever****, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans;* ***I will come to you.***John 14:15–18

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “****I will never leave you nor forsake you.****” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”* Hebrews 13:5–6

Jesus is God with **us**.

***For all the promises of God find their Yes in him****. That is why it is through him* ***that we utter our Amen*** *to God for his glory. And* ***it is God who establishes us with you in Christ****, and has* ***anointed us****, and who has also* ***put his seal on us*** *and* ***given us his Spirit*** *in our hearts as a guarantee.* 2 Corinthians 1:20–22

Going into 2021, God is with us … how will that **impact** your life?

1. If He is God with us … take off your **limits**.

2. Look at what He did to be with **you** … what are you **doing** to   
be with Him?

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but* ***emptied himself****, by taking the form of a servant,* ***being born in the likeness of men****. And being* ***found in human form,*** *he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,* ***even death on a cross****.* Philippians 2:5–8

3. If God is with you … how will your **life** be different?

John Stout – Anyone whoever met Jesus only had three responses to Him:

1. They were terrified and wanted to run away.
2. They hated Him and wanted to kill Him or stone Him to death.
3. They worshipped Him and got down on their knees and gave Him everything.

*For* ***I am not ashamed of the gospel****, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “****The righteous shall live by faith****.”* Romans 1:16–17

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even* ***the Spirit of truth****, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for* ***he dwells with you*** *and* ***will be in you****.* John 14:15–17

*Go therefore and* ***make disciples of all nations****, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ***teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you****. And behold****, I am with you always****, to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19–20

We can not just **shout** His love; we must **show** His love on earth.

He is **God**, He is God **with**, He is God with **us**!

*Some people have died with those words on theirs lips, I propose that we live with those words upon our hearts!* Tim Keller