**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

December 4, 2022

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**Hope is Born**

**The Hope of a Dream**

**Matthew 1:18-24**



God fulfilled His **promise** generation by generation.

The miraculous birth makes **hope** possible.

*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.*

Matthew 1:18

*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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* Isaiah 9:6

*And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*

Luke 1:34-35

Jesus is fully God and fully man at the same time. Physical body from Mary – His eternal, holy nature was from all eternity past.

Miraculous birth of Jesus means He has **no sin nature**.

*For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.*

Hebrews 7:26

Joseph finds himself in a difficult, confusing position.

*And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.*

Luke 1:19

All the legal and societal implications of marriage - without prerequisite activity for childbearing.

Joseph finds himself in the middle of circumstances he never planned for and likely would not have scripted.

How often do we find ourselves in a place we never planned for?

* We have done “everything right” and yet, here we are.
* Job? Family? Child? Financial? Health?

Faith, not circumstance, determines our behavior and orders our steps.

You shall be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Deuteronomy 5:32

God give us hope in the coming of a **savior** who will save us from our **sin**.

*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: 20-23

We have hope because Jesus was sent to save us from our greatest need – **freedom** from the enslavement to sin.

*I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.  But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.  But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 6:19-23

We have hope because God is **always** **with** **us**.

*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

Adam and Eve, Moses, Joshua, David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Peter, Paul, and you!

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

*"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Isaiah 41:10

*"Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:20

*"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 8:38-39

**Faith** in God produces **obedience**, which brings **glory** to God.

*When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

Luke 1:24-25

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

Hope in an unfolding and certain future and yet, we still feel uncertainty.

**Consider**

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

James 1:19-20

**Listen**

*Be Still, and know that I am God*

Psalm 46:10

*My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; you, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.*

Proverbs 2:1-5

**Obey**

*You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.*

Deuteronomy 5:33