



Journey of Faith
Christian Life in the Beach Cities

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS
Pastor Shawn Peterson
December 9, 2007

“God Started the Tradition”

Part 2 of 4

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ – which means, ‘God with us.’ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”

I. “JESUS”: GOD Saves (Matthew 1:21)

Psalms 130:8 “He himself will redeem Israel from all their sin.”

BECAUSE GOD SAVES:

 Declare THE PRAISES & LIVE Good Lives

1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but

now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

II. “IMMANUEL”: GOD With us (Matthew 1:23)

Matthew 1:23

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ – which means, ‘God with us.’”

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

“GOD WITH US” MEANS:

GOD BECAME flesh
GOD’S PRESENCE inside OF US

John 1:1, 14

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

Acts 13:52

“And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

Colossians 2:9-10

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”

1 Corinthians 6:19

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.”

III. HOW TO MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS EVEN BETTER

- A. Personally, KEEP JESUS the meaning OF CHRISTMAS
- B. Tell people, JESUS IS the reason FOR CHRISTMAS
- C. Through actions, KEEP JESUS the center OF CHRISTMAS

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