

Advent Devotions - Jesus is Immanuel

☐ Monday - Immanuel in the Garden.

Genesis 3:8

“God is spirit” (John 4:24), “whom no man has seen or can see” (1 Tim. 6:16; cf. John 6:46); “No one has beheld God at any time” (1 John 4:12). All appearances of God in human or angelic form in the Old Testament are properly explained as a preincarnate appearance of Christ, “who is the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15). So then, it was Jesus, “Immanuel,” *God with us*, who walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:8). But see how sin caused them to hide from Him. And what about you, friend – are you walking with Christ or hiding? The choice is yours. Walk with Immanuel today! Read John 10:33, 14:9-10; Hebrews 1:3

☐ Tuesday - Is Immanuel With You?

Matthew 1:21-23

Jesus is Immanuel, whose name means “God with us.” But, dear friend, the question is, “Is He with *you*?” A theoretical Savior will not do for you, only a real Savior and a personal Savior, because your sins and life’s difficulties are not theoretical. No, they are painfully real. That little baby, born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, is not just something to ponder and intellectualize, but to personalize and experience. Jesus is Immanuel, God with *us*, and I pray, God with *you*. Read John 1:12

☐ Wednesday - Immanuel’s Bridge..

Isaiah 59:2

The Bible reveals that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 6:23). The result is complete alienation from God: “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear” (Isa. 59:2). There is an impassable gulf between God and man, because of the righteousness of God and the unrighteousness of man. Yet there is a bridge to cross and a cross to bridge the great divide between God and man. Before Christ we were completely separated from God, but now in Christ absolutely nothing can separate us. Read Romans 8:35-39

☐ Thursday - Immanuel at the Door.

Rev. 3:20

Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20). O, if we fully understood who it is that knocks, we would hasten to open the door. It is the King of kings, Immanuel at the door. God desires fellowship with you! Dear friend open the door of your heart and fellowship with Christ today! Read 1 John 1:1-4

☐ Friday - He’s as Close as the Mention of His Name.

Psalms 75:1

Jesus is always near. He is Immanuel, “God with us.” But just how near is He? “The Lord is *near* to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth” (Psa. 145:18). He’s as close as the mention of His name. Call upon Immanuel today! “For what people is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God whenever we call on Him?” (Deut. 4:7). Read Psalm 46:1, 73:28

☐ Saturday - Nearer to Thee, O Lord.

James 4:8

God’s Word declares, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (Jam. 4:8). But someone may say, “I am already *in Christ*, how much closer can I get!” Nevertheless, nearness to God has more to do with personal interaction than proximity. A husband and wife can live in the same house and still be strangers for lack of personal interaction, and so it is with Christ and you. On a practical level, we have no relationship with Christ apart from prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship with His people. These things are how we draw near to God and they are the truest measure of the health of our relationship with Christ. Read Psalm 27:4