

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Monday, December 25

Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew 1:22 *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

That name 'Immanuel' was spoken centuries before during a dark time in the nation of Judah's history (Isaiah 7:14). It was meant to bring comfort to a troubled people with the truth that God was with them. It was a promise that one day He would send the Savior who would be the ultimate "God with us."

As you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ today, think on these words from Pastor Timothy Keller's book Hidden Christmas:

"What does 'with us' mean? From that text and the rest of the Gospels we can see that it means being in Jesus' presence, conversing with Him, learning from Him, having His comfort moment by moment. The purpose of the incarnation is that we would have a relationship with Him. In Jesus the ineffable, unapproachable God becomes a human being who can be known and loved. And through faith, we can know this love...The incarnation did not happen merely to let us know that God exists. It happened to bring Him near, so He can be with us and we with Him. Millions of people every Christmas sing, 'Jesus, our Immanuel,' but are they really with Him? Do they know Him or do they only know about Him? Jesus literally moved heaven and earth to get near us – what should we be doing now to truly be with Him?"¹

¹ Timothy Keller. Hidden Christmas, 53, 55