



Grace Bible Fellowship

DECEMBER 2023

"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). 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."

Matthew 1:21-25

With the birth of a child, one of the difficult decisions a parent has to make is what to call their new bundle of joy. They can scour baby name books or conduct endless internet searches, looking for just the right name. Does the name sound pleasing to the ears? Is this a name the child would be able to live with for the rest of his or her life? Do the initials accidentally spell out anything inappropriate? There are many considerations when trying to find a name. Sometimes, parents think they have completed their search, only to change their choice at the last second.

Joseph and Mary did not have the arduous task of determining a name for Jesus. The angel, who appeared to Joseph in a dream, tells him what to call this new child. "You shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." The name Jesus means "Yahweh saves," revealing what He will accomplish through His life. Jesus is the Savior, and His saving action correlates to the saving of Yahweh. When Jesus saves, He saves His people from their sins. This Messiah has a people who willingly deny themselves and follow Him. What they need is saving from their sin, and it is through the strength of Jesus that He will release His people from their bondage to sin and death to give them the gift of life. That's quite a name!

But that's not the only name given to us in these verses. Matthew says the miracle of Jesus' birth fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14. There, Isaiah says, "They shall call His name Immanuel." Immanuel means "God with us." Wait, weren't they supposed to call His name Jesus? How can Matthew say the prophecy was fulfilled when

a different name was given to the child? While they are two names, they are not at odds with one another. Jesus is the One who saves His people from their sins, and God with us. How is He able to save His people? Because He is God with us. What does He do as God with us? He saves us from our sins. Each name is dependent upon the other, and together, they highlight the gloriousness of Christ. Calling the child "Jesus" does not contradict the prophecy in Isaiah. It confirms it and demonstrates the wonderful work the immanent God does to save His people.

As we enjoy another Christmas season, may we pause and consider the beauty of these names. Jesus, Yahweh saves, the One who saves His people from their sins, and Immanuel, God with us. Beholding Christ brings these truths to the forefront of our minds and causes us to cry, "Glory!" The child is both our Savior and our God.

*In Christ,
Pastor Tyler*

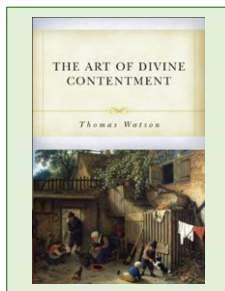
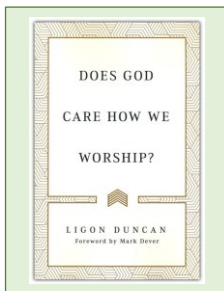
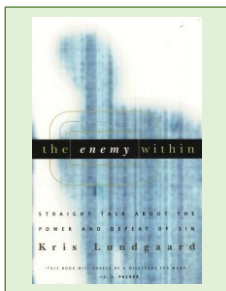
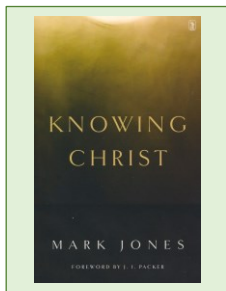
Pastor's Book Recommendations...

Knowing Christ by Mark Jones

The Enemy Within by Kris Lundgaard

Does God Care How We Worship by Ligon Duncan

The Art of Divine Contentment by Thomas Watson



January @ Grace...

January 1st

Offices Closed

January 14th

Prayer Service @5pm

January 16th

Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

January 24th

Annual Meeting @ 6:30pm

January 31st

Bible Study Resumes @ 6:30pm

Starting January 14th

College Care Box Collection

Upcoming @ Grace...

December 6th

Final Bible Study of 2023

December 13th

Parkside Bag Assembling @ 4:30pm

December 19th

Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

December 10th

Prayer Service @ 5pm

December 17th

Membership Vote After Service

December 24th & 31st

No Sunday School

December 24th

Candlelight Service @ 6:30pm



Worship Through Prayer

Our Ministry Volunteers

Elders/Deacons

Pastor Tyler, Eric, Jason, and Jeff

Ministry Volunteers

Pastor Tyler & Alyssa, Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, Dennis & Lori, John & Mary, Valerie, Dan & Christine, Aaron, Christian, Graeham, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff & Jill, Yessie, Patty, Kris, Kailee, Evangeline, Caleb, Lydia, & Marcos.

Sunday School Teachers

Pastor Tyler Sultze: Adult

Amanda Lafferty/Yessie Castro-Yanez: 3rd – 8th grade

Elder Eric Bjerkaas: Pre-K – 2nd grade

- Pray for our church. Pray that as the world would seek to persecute and divide the Church, that we would remain steadfast in suffering keep our eyes fixed on Christ. Pray we would continually be a place where the gospel is proclaimed with boldness and love. Pray we would remain faithful to reading, studying, and sharing the gospel. Pray we would be a place that encourages meaningful discipleship and spiritual growth among our brothers and sisters.
- Pray for our missionary partners in the Gospel, Karl & Glynn Peterson, Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, and Sillas & Wanger Campos.

- Pray for John Lindenmeyer's health and strength in his daily walk with the Lord. Pray the Lord would sustain Mary as she cares for him in his pain.
- Pray for Amanda Lafferty as she continues healing from wrist and spinal surgery.
- Pray for Don & Angie Faux as they continue to press on, trusting the Lord, to care for Don's headaches and sustain them through this trial. Pray for them as they come forward for membership.
- Pray for our parents and the challenges they face raising children of all ages. Pray the Lord would provide wisdom, grace, rest, and strength for them as they raise up and point their children to the Lord.
- Continue praying for Yessie's uncle Max as he is still on the transplant list.
- Pray for our community and for us to have a heart that longs to share and spread the Gospel.
- Pray for the ministries of Grace Bible Fellowship. Pray that they would remain Christ-focused and seek to glorify the Lord.
- Pray for our broken world and how the Lord would seek to use us to bring the true Light into the darkness. Pray the Lord would give us a heart of discipleship to seek and desire fellowship with others and reach out and read the Word together.

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am	<i>Admin. Office Closed</i>		Bible Study @6:30pm			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am Prayer Service @5pm			Parkside Bag Assembling @6:30pm			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am Membership Vote		Board Mtg. @ 6:30pm				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship @10am Candlelight Service @ 6:30pm	<i>Offices Closed</i>					
31	1					
Worship @10am	<i>Offices Closed</i>					

Happy Birthday

2nd – Marcos Castro-Yanez

5th – Adam Sparks

12th – Robena Miskanis

14th – Lee McCullough

19th – Alyssa King

26th – Kris Wallin