

'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 9 - 'Immanuel—God with Us' John 1: 14a



As we look to begin to consider this verse, we can see that we have here encapsulated John's purpose of his gospel. His desire to underline and magnify the reality of who Christ is and what He has done and the tremendous truth that God became man. This should shake us to our very core. The reality of the part of the verse we consider here is truly remarkable, that God should come into this world as a man so that men could see him. , we can see the following in the first part of this verse, '*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*'.

1. The Word Became Flesh - The statement in these four words is one of the most significant in the Scriptures. The verse it self is a succinct statement that describes the Incarnation. There is an important reality to be seen in these four words, 'the Word became flesh', that being that in the Incarnation, God took on humanity. Jesus Christ did not cease to be the eternal Word when He became man. Though God is immutable, pure, existing from and through all eternity, being not becoming as the created, in the Incarnation, the unchangeable God became fully man, and yet remained to be fully God. He entered time and experienced life as it is for those whom He created. This remarkable union of the two natures in Christ's one person is undoubtedly one of the greatest mysteries of Christianity. The two natures remained perfect and distinct, and we cannot explain it, but we must believe it. Jesus never ceased to be God, it was as the God-man that Jesus lived, suffered, died, and then gloriously rose again. The end for which Christ became flesh to the glory of God, but to live and die to save sinners.

2. He Pitched His Tent - In this verse John is referring to the tabernacle. The hinge of this part of the verse that leads us into the depth of what it is saying is bound up in the word 'dwelt' or 'dwelling'. 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us', or as the Greek underlines, 'the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us.' In God's providential plan, everything about the tabernacle was purposefully designed to communicate some spiritual truth. As a result, with regards to the Tabernacle, many of its roles and functions were previews of the role and functions of the Lord Jesus Christ. He would fulfil them when He would come and tabernacle on the earth, pitch his tent amongst us.

1. The first thing that I would like you to see is that in every aspect, the tabernacle held the place at the centre of Israel's encampment. There is great significance in this, in that Jesus Christ is the centre of the Christian encampment in whatever circumstance, both in the life of the believer and in the life of His church. To not have Him at the centre of all we are and do is not to appreciate who He is and what He has done. **2. The tabernacle was also significant in that it was the place where the law of Moses was kept.** We can see Christ here in that it speaks of His perfection and His perfect obedience to God, He perfectly kept the law. **3. The tabernacle was quite simply the dwelling place of God.** The glory that was situated within the Holy of Holies symbolised the very presence of God. That is why John speaks of Christ and the reality of His coming in a manner that speaks of God revealed in flesh. '*We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.*' **4. We are also able to see that the tabernacle was the place of revelation because it was the place where God dwelt with His people.** The Bible tells us that the second tabernacle, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the place where God meets with men and through the gospel of Christ speaks to them. God is revealed to us perfectly in Jesus, in whom we see the Father. **5. The tabernacle was the place where the people of Israel worshipped.** We worship in the presence of Jesus Christ. He is the One who regulates our worship, who receives and ministers to His people. It is only through Him that we have access by the Spirit, to the Father. **6. The significance continues in that the tabernacle was the place where sacrifices were made.** There is no approach by man to God without means of sacrifice. How clear for us, that right now, that has not changed! There is no approach to God except through faith in the person and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, who in the tabernacle of his flesh offered Himself on the cross of Calvary.



Penzance Baptist Church

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