

EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

December 18, 2016

John 1:1-27

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” I Timothy 3:16

Isaiah foretold that Jesus would be called “Immanuel.” Angel Gabriel instructed Joseph to name him “Jesus” (Jehovah is salvation), “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matthew 1:22, 23).

Hereby the Word which was God, and was in the beginning with God, became flesh (John 1:1, 14). “God was manifest in the flesh” (I Timothy 3:16). Herein “we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death” (Hebrews 2:9).

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham” (Hebrews 2:14-16).

Why, when God would provide a Savior for mankind, must that Savior be both God and man? Why the incarnation? Why Emmanuel; God with us?

1. The effects of sin must be removed without the one removing them being overtaken by them:

Guilt	Defilement	Disease	Death
(Isa. 53:4-6; Matt. 8:17; I Peter 2:24; Acts 2:24)			

2. The penalty for sin must be paid in full. Mere man can never do this.

- a. The payment due for human transgression must be made by man (Jer.31:30; Ez. 18:4, 20).
- b. The payment from every person is greater than any human can repay (II Thess. 1:9; Mark 9:43-48; Heb. 10:4).
- c. That payment must be made for an innumerable multitude of souls (Rev. 7:9).
- d. Such payment can be made only by one who is of infinite dignity (Isa. 40).

3. Perfect righteousness is a necessary credential for a person’s entrance into heaven.

- a. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).
- b. This holiness must be produced by man (I Peter 1:15, 16).

- c. Man's nature is corrupted by sin, rendering him entirely incapable of righteousness (Rom. 3:10-18).
- d. Such holiness is an attribute of God alone (Isaiah 6:1-6).