

“God with Us”  
John 1:14  
(Preached at Trinity, June 15, 2016)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we've come to **Verse 14** we find a passage with amazing fullness. It is a wellspring of truth. It is mysterious and wonderful. We could spend the rest of our days pondering it and still not exhaust the wealth of truth.
2. Last time I restricted our focus to the first phrase, "And the Word became flesh." This alone is beyond our ability to absorb. The eternal Word became flesh. In other words, God became man. The attributes of both the divine and human natures are ascribed to the one person of Jesus. But in this union of natures both natures stay intact. The Divine nature is not weakened, nor is the human nature somehow enhanced by the Divine.
3. How can we comprehend this? This is why we need to study long and think deeply about our God.
4. Tonight I want to direct your attention to the second phrase, "and dwelt among us." John still has his focus upon the Eternal Word, the second person of the Godhead. He is saying that God has come to dwell among men. He is Immanuel.  
**Matthew 1:23 NAS** - "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."
5. It is only because of our familiarity with God that this doesn't amaze us. We have so diminished God as to see Him as being just like us. But God is not like us. God is infinite in His divine essence. We cannot comprehend infinity because everything in our experience is finite. God is other than us. He is beyond. We refer to Him as transcendent. He dwells in infinite perfection, in light inaccessible. He is above the material. He is beyond time. He is unknowable, unapproachable, incomparable.
6. The amazing thing is this God has come to dwell among us.  
The word for "dwelt" is *σκηνώ* which literally means "to tabernacle" – He set up His tent among us.  
The CSV translates it: "The Word became flesh and took up residence among us."
7. John wants us to turn our thoughts back to the wilderness wandering. God commanded Israel to construct a tabernacle with a mercy seat placed behind a veil. It represented the presence of God. Whenever they set out God went before them. The supernatural presence of His divine person was always within the camp. He led them, protected them, provided for them.
8. This same God has tabernacled among us through the person of Christ. Last week our focus was primarily upon the theological aspect of the incarnation—the union of the human and the Divine in one person. Tonight I want us to consider the practical aspects that God has come to dwell among us.

- I. God is with us in His **presence** – God has entered into our condition
- A. This is a blessing for all of humanity
1. God as Creator is active among us
  2. This blessing is because of Christ. If not for our Redeemer God would have abandoned this world. In this sense Jesus is the Savior of all men.
  3. Humanity cannot approach God. He is an infinite distance from them. Jesus Christ alone can bridge the distance.  
**John 14:6 NAS** - "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."  
**Acts 4:12 NAS** - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."
  4. But lost humanity does not comprehend His glory  
**John 1:10 NAU** - "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him."
  5. But for those who receive Him they find His glorious presence full of praise and glory. His presence is a great sense of overwhelming awe.
- B. We are continually reminded of the blessing of God's presence
1. God tells us: **Heb. 13:5 ESV** - "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
  2. It is particularly comforting during times of adversity  
**Deuteronomy 31:6 NAS** - "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."
    - a. In our greatest trial, He is there. At the time of our greatest need, He is there.
    - b. When Paul was in prison he felt all alone, deserted by all the brethren – but Paul knew that he was not alone.  
**2 Timothy 4:16-17 NAS** - "At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me"
    - c. This is a never failing comfort.  
**Psalms 23:4 KJV** - "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me"
    - d. Matthew Henry: "Those who make the glory of God their end, and the word of God their rule, the Spirit of God the guide of their affections, and the providence of God the guide of their affairs, may be confident that *the Lord goes before them*, as truly as he went before Israel in the wilderness."
  3. It is also true as we conduct our work – Jesus charged us to go forth with the Gospel and then promised us that He would be with us  
**Matthew 28:20 NAU** - "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

## II. God is with us in His person

- A. John is referring to the second person of the Godhead taking upon Himself the flesh of humanity and dwelling among us. **See Verse 1**
  - 1. We serve a triune God. God exists in three persons. But He is only one God. This means in the abiding presence of the person of Christ the fullness of the Godhead was among us.
  - 2. Through faith we are united with the person of the Son – We enjoy His abiding presence and fellowship. We have a relationship with Him.
- B. The presence of Christ is never removed from the triune essence of God
  - 1. Through Christ we are united with the Father and enjoy continual access before His throne. We have a relationship with the Father.  
**Ephesians 2:18 NAS** - "for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father."
  - 2. Through Christ we have the Holy Spirit in us and enjoy fellowship with Him. We have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.  
**2 Corinthians 13:14 NAS** - "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."
- C. It was the second person of the Godhead who came as our Redeemer
  - 1. He dwelt among us in perfect sinlessness. Every other human being has sinned, but not Christ
  - 2. And this one who dwelt among us went to the cross to die for us.

## III. God is with us in His power

- A. Jesus *appeared* meek and lowly.
  - 1. He had all of the limitations and weaknesses of humanity. But He was also full of infinite power. He is God with us.
  - 2. He worked amazing miracles calming the fury of a storm, causing the deaf to hear and the blind to see.
  - 3. When He healed the woman with the issue of blood He spoke of His power  
**Mark 5:30 NAU** - "Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?"
  - 4. He demonstrated His power in casting out demons  
**Luke 4:36 NAU** - "And amazement came upon them all, and they began talking with one another saying, "What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out."
  - 5. He demonstrated His power over death  
**John 10:18 NAU** - "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."  
**Acts 2:24 NAU** - "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

6. Upon His departure He sent forth the power of His Spirit upon them  
**Acts 1:8 NAU** - "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- B. Jesus continues to dwell among us with power.
1. He is King of kings. He rules over us with power and dominion. All of His enemies are being made His footstool.
  2. And He's coming back with power.  
**Luke 21:27 NAS** - "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."
- IV. God is with us in His preservation
- A. Jesus keeps us
1. His preserving power is an infinite blessing
  2. Jude describes it in the opening of his epistle:  
**Jude 1:1 NAU** - "Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ"  
The word for "kept" is τηρέω – It means to take care of something. It refers to God's loving care for His people. He preserves us.
  3. Jesus came to accomplish His work of redeeming His people. Nothing was left undone. He will keep us that we might be raised up on the last day  
**John 6:39-40 NAS** - "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."
- B. Paul pondered the question:  
**Romans 8:35 NAS** - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"
1. He pondered all of our struggles and enemies  
**Romans 8:35 NAS** - "Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"
  2. His conclusion:  
**Romans 8:37-39 NAS** - "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

#### Conclusion:

1. God coming to dwell among men is the greatest of mysteries. That He would become man is unfathomable. May we never take it for granted.
2. He was willing to condescend to our condition in order to save us. And He continues to dwell with His people. He is with us as we worship. He is with us as we observe the Lord's Supper. And He is with us daily as we serve Him. May we worship Him continually as He dwells among us.