

**Immanuel Series**  
**Orthopraxy Part One**  
**12/4/21**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

-Luke 1:1-4

-Pray

-new series...(explain)

- Immanuel means “God with us”
- “Are you...” because I am asking the question if you believe in the incarnation of Christ, are you living by that example?

**Introduction**

**-Orthodoxy:** authorized, generally accepted doctrines...

**-Orthopraxy:** living according to those beliefs...

-(**the Bible is true**...believing it is the divinely inspired Word of God...but is it authoritative in your life, giving you moral boundaries, do's and don'ts?)

-Incarnation (orthodoxy)

- **the pre-existence of Jesus**
- **He left Heaven to come to Earth**
- **He took human form**
- **He was both fully God and fully man**

**-The incarnation of Jesus, Immanuel, is more than God's plan for our salvation...this is God's example for us. He expects us to be tangibly present with one another!**

-Incarnational Living (orthopraxy)

- **Are you physically present with God's family?**
- **Are you making sacrifices to serve God's family?**

- **Are you intentionally seeking out spiritually lost people?**
- **Are you regularly participating in public worship?**
- **Are you genuinely concerned for the well being of others?**

-(talk about how in series we will see the story of Christmas/Incarnation is also about incarnational living!)

## **-Your Wisdom**

### **-Luke 2:52**

- Jesus would not have survived much less grown if He didn't have a family
- Prophetic picture for when someone is a new Christian...they need brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers!!!!
- *If you aren't here, you are withholding your wisdom and life experience and spiritual family from others!*

-Luke 2:1-7 (will you be this to someone new in their faith?)

-Matthew 21:1-6 (reference only...triumphal entry)

**-From the moment of Jesus birth, even the circumstances leading up to His birth...every moment fulfilled one of the 60 major prophecies found in the Old Testament.**

-Professor Peter Stoner, Science Speaks

The probability that Jesus of Nazareth could have fulfilled **even eight** of the 60 major prophecies would be only 1 in  $10^{17}$ . That's 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

That many silver dollars would be enough to cover the face of the entire state of Texas two feet deep. And the probability is equal to that of a blindfolded man, heading out of Dallas by foot in any direction being able, on his very first attempt, to pick up one specifically marked silver dollar.

-Numbers 6:27 (NLT)

- Barak: Hebrew word for "blessed" literally means to kneel
- God isn't bowing before us, He is bowing so we can reach Him!!!!
- (like we do with little children)

-This is Jesus saying to us... "I want to be tangibly present with you!)

-Numbers 6 was 1,500 years before Jesus' birth...Jesus couldn't wait talk about Christmas!!!! (talk about little kids...)

## **-Your Concern**

### **-Luke 2:8-20**

- These shepherds tasked with guarding the flock...
- *Prophetic picture: God wants to gift open Heaven moments to communities of people who have a sense of responsibility for the well being of one another.*
- (how much concern do you have for your brothers and sister, mothers and father, sons and daughters)
- *I want 311 Selden Road to be known as an open Heaven, a place where Heaven and earth meet...will you add your concern to tip the scale?*

### **-Isaiah 7:14 (NKJ)**

- He is saying... "I want to be tangibly present with you!"
- 700 years before Jesus' birth...

-Malachi to Matthew

- 400 years of prophetic silence...dramatic pause...
- He is saying... "I'm almost there!"
- It's like Christmas Eve to someone eternal!!!!

-Matthew 1:18-25/Luke 2:8-20 (reference as already read)

- He is here...the Incarnation has happened!!!!

-Philippians 2:6-7

- 30 years after just to make sure we understood!

**-The incarnation of Jesus, Immanuel, is more than God's plan for our salvation...this is God's example for us. He expects us to be tangibly present with one another!**

## God is With Us, Are You?

-John 1:14

*-This pandemic has taken people's loved ones, for some it has taken their careers, from others it has taken their peace, it has fractured relationships, provoked contentious arguments, revealed societal inequities, closed businesses, destabilized global economies...and that list could keep going...but at some point, if you profess faith in Jesus Christ, you must decide when you are going to stop Covid from robbing you of incarnational living!*

**-For some of you...I'm not questioning whether or not you believe in Jesus...but I am questioning whether or not you have stopped living like Him...has Covid secularized your Christianity?**

-Some Questions

- If you are sending your children to school but aren't willing to bring them to church...is that living like Jesus?
- If you login instead of showing up because it is more convenient...is that living like Jesus?
- If you aren't serving in some capacity to make a weekend worship service happen for others...is that living like Jesus?
- If you aren't giving sacrificially to build the church you call home...is that living like Jesus?
- If you are at malls, restaurants, sporting events, community gatherings, play dates, and your workplace but aren't at church...is that living like Jesus?

-Are there exceptions...sure there are!!! ...immunocompromised, families with newborns, people who have been consistent with their practices, out of town, visitors, contagious...there will always be legitimate reasons why people can't be here...

## **Band/Close**

-Justin 12/11 and the 12/18...

- Your Wisdom (tonight – Mary and Joseph)
- Your Concern (tonight – Shepherds)
- Your Worship (The Magi)
- Your Generosity (The Magi)
- Your Service (Anna and Simeon at the Temple)

**If Jesus fit into humanity...you and I can certainly try to fit into the lifestyle He wants us to have...a lifestyle defined by incarnational living, being tangibly present for one another in the family of God!**

-Isaiah 40:12-15, 25-28