

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.

Intro

~ CDC reports, “Loneliness is the feeling of being alone, regardless of the amount of social contact. Social isolation is a lack of social connections. Social isolation can lead to loneliness in some people, while others can feel lonely without being socially isolated.” <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/lonely-older-adults.html>

~ “One reason why younger people may feel more isolated, may be their greater tendency to use social media. The study found an increasing correlation between social media usage and feelings of loneliness. Seven out of 10 heavy social media users, 71%, reported feelings of loneliness.” <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/23/loneliness-is-rising-younger-workers-and-social-media-users-feel-it-most.html>

~ A USA Today article headline on 3/20/19 read, “Teens aren't socializing in the real world. And that's making them super lonely”

~ In part social loneliness can stem from spiritual loneliness

~ While we're thankful for organization that work to help individuals with the loneliness they feel there is also a spiritual loneliness that comes from being disconnected to God

~ Could spiritual isolation from God be part of the cause of our social isolation?

~ There's an answer from the WOG = God is with us

Text

We want to deal with this verse contextually and practically

1 Contextually - Matt 1:23 and the context

~ This name for Christ Emmanuel is derived from the OT usage of the same word Immanuel in Isaiah 7:14; 9:6,7

~ Read Isaiah 7:14

~ If Jesus had not been Immanuel, God with us, He could not have been Jesus (A Savior).

~ To Matthew God with us meant he came to save people from sin. In order for Jesus to save his people from their sins he had to be Emmanuel (God with us)

~ Jn 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

~ Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

~ Phil 2:7,8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

~ Emmanuel means Christ was incarnate to become the sin-bearer, to save his people from their sins

2 Practically

Because God is with us we have

1 Comfort – Comfort when in trouble or forsaken

2 Courage – Courage replaces fear & lack of trust

3 Confidence – Confident God will see his work through in our lives

God with us gives us:

~ We see different situation in which God is with us

1 Comfort – When we're in trouble We're not alone, God is with us

~ Ps 46 from Summarized bible = God's people may count themselves safe and make themselves strong in Him in whom there is always help sufficient, no matter what is the case and exigence.

~ The situation is trouble – the answer is God is a present help in trouble

- Ps 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- Ps 46:7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.
- Ps 46:11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

In these two passages in Isaiah Judah has the comfort that while the Lord is disciplining Judah he will be with her

~ The situation is spiritual discipline

~ Judah (2 tribes) was being threatened by enemies and yet despite discipline the Lord would be with Judah

~ Is 8:8-10 And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel. 9 Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. 10 Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

~ Is 9:6,7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

~ The purpose of spiritual discipline is to restore the wayward to fellowship and bring righteousness (Heb 12:11)

~ The situation is were forsaken by others and alone – the answer is the Lord stands with us

~ 2 Tim 4:16-18 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Courage - Courage replaces fear & lack of trust

~ Joshua had confidence in Numb 14:9 and Joseph also had confidence in God's will. We can do God's will

~ The situation is were afraid – the answer is courage

~ Numb 14:9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

~ Acts 18:9,10 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

3 Confidence – Confident God will see his work through in our lives

~ The situation is were considering the work of God – the answer is God' Completion

~ Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

~ Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Conclusion

~ In all these circumstances of God being with his people there was:

Uncertainty, Doubt, Discouragement, Confusion, No way forward, Unknown, Fear, Waiting

~ Because God is with us we can have comfort, courage and confidence

~ For this to become real in our experience we have to draw near to God in devotions, prayer and worship

~ We can mentally know God is with us but there's strength in "God being with us" when we truly draw near to him in fellowship.

~ Just as Hannah poured out her soul to the Lord (1 Sam 1:15)

~ Ps 42:4; 62:8; 142:2,3; Lam 2:19

~ The Hebrew word pour out means to spill forth. Fellowship is pouring forth the contents of our life

~ Our problem is we live our Christian lives in auto-pilot without truly pouring forth our soul to the Lord

~ That is fellowship and this is where strength, power, comfort, courage and confidence come from

~ In trouble, when alone, when outnumbered, discouraged and the work of God is daunting....God is with us

3 A God in control – Because God is with us he's also in control of his will for our lives