

God With Us

“Celebrating the true
Xmas – Immanuel, God
with us, the true Messiah”
J. MacArthur, Jr.

Introduction



- Has Xmas become secularized? How?
- Materialism, presents, shopping
- Santa instead of Jesus
- Food & Partying in place of worship
- God With Us – Pg. 129

- Influence of the world has eaten away at the true reason and meaning of Xmas – its about the birth of Christ, Immanuel, God with us to save his people from their sins

- Objectives the next 2 weeks:
 - Not to focus on what's wrong, not to be a "Scrooge"
 - Experience the true meaning of Xmas
 - Experience God with us
 - Discuss meaningful ways to celebrate Xmas
 - God With Us – Pg. 132

The Prophetic Xmas Message

- Where is the earliest revelation of Xmas?
- Isaiah 7:14 “The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son and will call His name Immanuel.”
- Isaiah 9:6a “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.”
- Matthew 1:21-23 – Prophecy fulfilled.

The Prophetic Xmas Message

- What is source of Xmas according to Isaiah?
 - The Lord Himself

- What did God do?
 - Gave – a Son, Christ (Why given not born? Phil. 2:6-7)
 - Came to us to, Immanuel, dwelt among us, still among us in the form of His Spirit

- True celebration of Xmas would be celebration of giving, giving of Christ and ourselves his servants, how might we do that?
 - Giving of ourselves to others as ambassadors of Christ. Examples: Mend, Angel Tree, etc.
 - Celebrating His presence among us. A time of worship, a self-less time, not a selfish time. Matthew 10:38-39.

Prophetic Features of Messiah

- What kind of son was given?
- Isaiah 9:6c “And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

Unique Features of Messiah

- Where do people go for counsel?
 - Psychologists
 - Psychiatrists
 - Astrologers

- What made Jesus such a Wonderful Counselor?
 - Source of all truth (John 14:6), source of all wisdom
 - Source of all life (John 1:1-3), knows us intimately
 - Always knew what to say (John 7:46), knows all things

- How might we celebrate our Wonderful Counselor at Xmas?
 - A study in his word, absorb his counsel
 - Commit yourself to prayer, seek his counsel & wisdom
 - Give someone a bible, help them read it

Unique Features of Messiah

- Evidence of Jesus' Might (A Mighty God)
- Omnipotent, created all things from nothing (John 1:1-3), brought order out of chaos (1Corinthians 14:33)
- Can empower his followers as well as counsel them
- Bore our sins in his body on the cross (1Peter 2:24)
- Conquered death, makes the dead alive (1Cor. 15:22)
- Conquered Satan (Hebrews 2:14). God With Us –Pg. 118:119

- Human counselors are limited
- Can't empower someone to do right
- Not all knowing
- Can't see someone's heart or motives

- How might we celebrate our Mighty God at Xmas?
- Turn areas of sin over to him (confide in a pastor, elder, brother or sister who will pray with & for you)
- Step out in faith (e.g. a ministry, a mission, tithe)

Unique Features of Messiah

- In what sense is Jesus our “Father of Eternity”?
- The first born of His Messianic, eternal kingdom (1Cor. 15:20-22). The salvation / new life of His sons and daughters is an eternal salvation / eternal life.
- He shoulders his kingdom government Himself, needs no support staff, no bureaucracy (Isaiah 9:6b)
- Creator of heaven and earth (Hebrews 1:10-12)
- He sees the end of everything and guarantees it will work together for ultimate good (Rom. 8:28)

- How might we celebrate the “Father of Eternity” at Xmas?
- *Keep* praying for that unsaved friend or family member
- Have an eternal perspective, Matthew 6:25-34. What are you anxious about? Lay up treasure that lasts.

Unique Features of Messiah

- Jesus is the Prince of Peace, what kind of peace?
- Peace with God (Romans 5:1), reconciliation with God
- Peace from God to those who receive his grace (Romans 1:7)
- Personal, individual peace growing from a knowledge of him to those with whom he's pleased (Luke 2:14)

- What sense of peace is not promised?
- From war
- From conflict
- From personal trials (e.g. sickness, natural disasters). He promises to be with us through our trials (Rom 8:38-39)

Unique Features of Messiah

- How might we celebrate the Prince of Peace at Xmas?
- Personal peace – confess Christ as Lord, repent of your sins, enjoy true peace at Xmas
- Relational peace - if you have anything against your brother go and deal with it (Matthew 5:23-24)
- Societal peace – go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), introduce the prince of peace to the world around us. Identify one or two people and pray for them.
- Conclude with reflective reading: God With Us – Pg. 25, “Christians & Christmas”