

THE CHRIST OF OUR CHRISTMAS

POINTS TO PONDER

1) What metaphor would you use today to describe the role that Christ plays in your life? Would it be that of a prophet, priest or king?

WORDS TO WRANGLE

1) The Bible describes David as a "man after God's own heart." What does that phrase mean to you? Are you such a person?

CONCLUSIONS TO CONSIDER

1) How can you honor Christ as King at church? In your home? At your work?

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS

LESSON SERIES:

"For to us a child is born; to us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6 NIV).

Concentrate first on today's passage of Scripture. It is found in Matthew's gospel and the first chapter. Do you remember the translation from the King James Version?

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 1:23 KJV).

There is so much theology and practical Christianity packed into this one verse, volumes could be written explaining the depth of the passage. Let's focus on three concepts today: the word "interpreted;" the name of God; and the words "with us."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (June 19, 1834 – January 31, 1892) was an English Particular Baptist preacher. When Spurgeon died, the area south of the Thames River went into mourning. Sixty thousand people paraded in line to pay homage as his body lay in state for three days. Over one hundred thousand people stood along his funeral route, respectfully watching as the hearse passed. It was a remarkable expression of affection for the man who was known as the "Prince of Preachers."

Spurgeon was enamored with the word "interpreted" in this verse. He saw it as the invitation for all to some and understand what it means for God to be with us, Emmanuel.

A part of the wonder, the splendor, the amazement ... and our responsibility ... being entrusted with the message of the gospel is to explain it, communicate it, interpret it, if you will, to a people who are afar off from God.

They may speak the same language that you speak, or they may not. They may live next door to you, or they may live on the other side of the world. They may be the exact age as you, or they may be of the next generation, or even the one after that. They simply do not speak the language of Emmanuel. They don't know what it means to have God with them.

And it is up to you to tell them. Resonate the message of Emmanuel in your life.