

‘God With Us’: Immanuel, the Presence and Power of God

Once there was a man who was invited to a treasure hunt by his teacher. The teacher gave him a map to this treasure as well as a special briefcase he was to keep with him at all times. The treasure hunter was told that the key to the briefcase was buried at the treasure site.

The treasure hunter spent months locating the treasure site. At last, he found it—and the key! He thought the briefcase would contain special tools to dig up this treasure. But to his amazement, when he put the key into the special briefcase, he didn’t find tools to dig up the treasure—he found the treasure itself. The treasure had been with him the entire time, but the valuables had been completely hidden.

Something glorious was kept hidden for ages and generations but has now been revealed to us. We find it in Colossians 1:19 (NKJV): “For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.” What does that mean? Who is “Him”? Jesus! In Jesus Himself all the fullness should dwell. The fullness of what? The fullness of all things. The fullness of God. The fullness of the Father, the Spirit and the Son.

The Advent season reminds us that God is with us; rejoice! Immanuel, our Savior, is born! The story of Jesus’ birth in Luke 2 is familiar and beloved, especially through the Christmas season. But in Colossians 1:20, we read more fully into why our Father in heaven brought us His Son, “And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”



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The Jesus we serve, the Jesus preached in the gospel, is not just some philosopher or religious teacher. The fullness of all things resides in Jesus. He is higher than all things. He is supreme above everything that was, is and will be. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega—the first and the last. He's the beginning and the end. He's the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is our Prince of Peace. He is the way. He is the truth. He is the life. He is the highest being who has existed and could exist. All things were created by Him and through Him.

Now, what are those things? They are the created things, or things in heaven. The word "heaven" is the created heavens, the expanse. One day they will be rolled away like a scroll, but then they will be made new. Paul tells us the cross of Jesus has already disarmed the principalities and powers. He explains:

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