

Emmanuel

(Part 1)

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You will remember when the angel appeared unto Joseph in a dream and told him about the birth of the Christ, he said: *"And they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."* (Matthew 1:23)

This is one of the most valuable and comforting truths this Bible reveals--the presence of God with us all the time. It is something we often lose sight of, and thus we do not receive the benefit and blessing from it that we should. When we grasp the fact that God is present with us all the time and then realize what He is and what His presence means, we would overflow with faith, and blessings of every kind.

We have known of children of wealthy parents to be distressed and have need while their parents are away, and they are not in touch with them; but they have their needs more than supplied when those parents are around them, while they are in touch with them.

The prodigal son was extremely hungry and lacked in every way, while he was separated from his father and the comforts of his home; because his father was not present and could not be with him or do anything for him. When he reached his father's presence, that ended every trouble he had.

Do you know that anyone who realizes the presence of God, every trouble disappears. He is the answer to every question; He is the solution to every problem; He is the deliverance out of every trouble and the entrance to every blessing and prosperity of every kind. That is what this word Emmanuel means: Some one present all the time Who knows everything. Who is able to do everything and Who has the power to do everything; and He is willing to do things; He even delights to do these things for us.

People these days are great for making appliances, have certain kinds of machines to do the work for them; men who have mills get machinery to turn out the work more quickly, and they are very particular to have such appliances and machinery right at their command, where they can use it readily. Housewives have electric appliances, and they keep them where they can easily use them; they do not want to lose sight of

them. People who can afford it hire people to work in their homes at their command.

Well, we have a greater One always with us, One Who can do everything that we need to have done; One Who will not forsake us. He is our "all-sufficient appliance," if we may express it that way. Electricity in a home means that it can be used for lighting that home; God in our home means we can use Him for anything we may need Him for. God's presence with us is an active presence, but we can make it passive by ignoring it, and we can make it active by making use of His presence.

When we are once convinced and fully realize that God is really with us in our home, not in Heaven, far away, not traveling in the distance; we will have perfect confidence in Him. We will not deal with Him in that vague, indefinite manner. It is an established fact that God is with us continually. That is what John meant when he said: *"Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."* (1 John 1:3)

Then he adds the blessings which come from such presence, or fellowship. *"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."* (Verse 4)

David said: *"In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."* (Psalm 16:11)

That did not mean in the future life, but in this present time, fulness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forever more. As long as this life lasts this joy will last; that is a little inkling of what it really means to grasp the truths of the presence of God.

If your house has a gas pipe, or a water pipe, which leaked and needed the services of a plumber, and the cellar was flooded. and the house being damaged, you would be quite anxious about that plumber getting there in haste; but everything would be just the opposite when he arrived, because he knows just how to remedy the trouble. You would give a great sigh of relief when he came on the scene.

It does not make any difference what there is out of order in our spiritual life, in our physical life, in our financial life, in our home life; if we ever grasp that God is there to do the work, it will end all our troubles; our life will be a great big sigh of relief. Jehoshaphat discovered that, and it was a wonderful discovery to make.

In 1849 it was announced that gold had been discovered in California; it had been there long before man discovered it, and everybody

who had enough money to get there, went to California to dig gold. I will repeat the fact that gold had been there all the while; and God has never been away from saint or sinner since man fell into sin. He has always been present, but sin hides His presence, Idolatry ignores His presence. There is just the same presence with the worst sinner as the best saint; although the sinner does not receive any benefit of that presence, while the saint enjoys the wonderful blessing of that presence.

Paul, in speaking to a people who were very idolatrous (the Athenians) said: *"As I passed by, I saw your different altars and idols; I notice you are very religious"*—that is what that word "superstitious" means here— "you are very much inclined toward super natural, spiritual things; you are subject to religion; I see your altars all around, and even discovered one erected to the; "UNKNOWN GOD." That gave Paul an opening to present the true and ever-living God. He said, "This unknown God is the One I represent." That is His name in the world today: "the unknown God."

Jesus said: *"O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me."* (John 17:25)

That is the greatest, the most valuable knowledge in the whole universe, to know God, as it is the end of our trouble here and hereafter; victory everywhere and all the time. Religion does not consist of or is not made up of going to Christ, but it does consist of coming to a real knowledge of God.

You wonder why people who seem to be so nice and well doing, so devoted, and yet they are in all kinds of trouble. They do not know God at all, and there is nothing which will take the place of a real knowledge of God. They have never gone before Him and opened their heart to Him and told Him they were no good; that they were hypocrites, blind and ignorant. They have never said: "Lord, I am professing to be a Christian, but there is nothing Christ-like about me; I have no resemblance of a child of Thine."

Job had to do that; he got to the place where he saw he was nothing. He thought he was something, but Satan came and robbed him of all he had. His wife told him to curse God and die. He was considered a splendid man in his day. If

such a calamity would happen today, people would say: "My, my, I thought those people of God were somebody; but now look, there is one of their best members in such trouble, that shows that God is not there."

Beloved, the presence of God will draw the attacks of the devil worse than ever, and always remember that outward piety, or devotion, and close attentions to services are not the essentials; anyone can possess these and still be totally ignorant of God. It is the act of going into our homes and confessing what we are and where we are and asking God to reveal Himself to us and to put a little life and "go" in us, in order that we might get somewhere in the divine life--that is what counts.

These calamities were the best things that ever happened to Job, because as a result of them, he got his eyes on GOD; he acknowledged that he had heard about God but really never experienced anything of Him in his life.

"I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee."

If we get just a little glimpse into that great heart of love, get some real knowledge of God, it will place a confidence within us; that we will see to it that Satan will not be able to walk all over us.

There are hosts of people worshipping such a God today; but it brings no blessing, only opens the door for Satan to beat us spiritually; beat us physically, beat us financially. Satan has no more right to lay the weight of his finger upon the spirit, soul, body, or home, of any of God's real children than we have a right to go out with a revolver and shoot people down.

If we would receive a proper knowledge of God, it would put a stop to those attacks of Satan. Jesus said if we had faith as a grain of mustard seed, which meant if we had a knowledge of God which would give us faith as a mustard seed, nothing would be impossible to us; Satan would be completely beaten down in our lives concerning every detail.

"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar, with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." (Acts 17:23)

Then he goes on to tell them something about these idols, that they worshipped, in contrast to the true and ever-living God.

“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us.” (Acts 17: 24-27)

“Athenians, God is not far away from you; He is nearer to you than an idol you have here.” Just think, he was talking to idolatrous people.

“For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.” (Verses 28-31)

“Athenians, if you only knew it, the great God of Heaven is at your very side; He knows all about you, and His power is at your disposal, also His love, mercy, and wisdom is at your disposal, and all He can do is ready to be done for you; He is right on the job all the time. You may never give Him any work to do; you may ignore Him continually, but He is there just the same; He is present with you; in Him you live, and move, and have your being; whether you know it or not.” That was a remarkable talk to an idolatrous people, He was telling them that God’s presence was with them continually.

In Hebrews 13:5, we have another remarkable statement. It touches on the financial question.

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness;”—*This means that it makes no difference how needy our prospects are, we are never to get our eyes on any human source of supply, on our relatives, etc.; but we are to look away from every human source of help, and keep

our eyes on God, and let our conversation be without covetousness.

Some people go a little further and let other people know their circumstances. The pastor said I do not mean that we have anyone like that here in our congregation, but there are people who will let their friends know, and they have a strong desire to tell somebody, as they think they will hand them something.

We should never get our eyes on human resources for financial help. If we desire God to shower down His blessings, we must get our eyes off of all human resources. The pastor said it is the easiest thing in the world to depend on a human thing; I can speak from experience. I needed a piece of furniture one time, and Satan suggested to me: “You will get it from that source, from that person; over here and over there.” I thought it was a splendid plan, as it did not require much faith to believe I was going to get it.

Well, I waited and waited, and I suppose I would still be waiting if I had not gotten my eyes off of those human resources. One Sunday night after I had waited several weeks, I discovered that I had not trusted God at all for that piece of furniture; I had been trusting “Mary Smith,” “John Jones” and a few others, I guess; I had been looking everywhere but to the God of Heaven; I had been looking to the North, East, South, and West.

That is just what God does not want us to do. If we realized that we are children of a wealthy Father, we would not have our hand out for someone else to supply our needs. The pastor said, “When I am present, my children come very quickly to me to empty my pockets; while I am away, they cannot do it.”

It is just the same with us and God, if we will take the same attitude when we go to God and realize what His presence really means and that we have a perfect right to take FROM Him, we will discover that He stands ready to hand it out freely. We will go to God first, instead of having our hands out back and front, like the average minister.



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