

“O Come O Come Emmanuel” – Isaiah 9:1-7

Words are powerful! They matter! For confession and for **proclamation!**

With our words we declare what we believe!

With our words we also give meaning/definition to those beliefs!

What do you believe about Christmas? What do your words communicate about the meaning you attach to it? Where do those words originate?

If Christmas is all about Jesus, if your life is built upon Him, then with your words how would you describe Him? What does He mean to you?

Dr. S.M. Lockridge, in a famous sermon, uses words to describe Jesus for us!

As you listen, what words really stick out to you about who Jesus truly is & why He came to earth 2000 years ago? _____

There is much that can be said about Jesus, that speaks truth, & resonates with our hearts! Maybe you've heard such words in sermon form, but what about the words we sing in worship, the songs we use to praise our God with?

I love Christmas music! I love the familiarity, the tunes, but also the words!

For many of us, we get off track when it comes to the true meaning of Christmas, b/c of all the words & the meaning that the world attaches to it!

For many of us, as the holiday season goes on, the more and more we begin to look and sound like Ebenezer Scrooge! **“Bah humbug to Christmas!”**

If only we could stay focused on Christmas' true meaning, & allow the words that we hear, as well as the words we proclaim, keep us focused on Christ!

This sermon series, “A Christmas Carol”, is all about hearing & proclaiming along with the familiar songs of Christmas, the true meaning of this holiday!

How many of us get upset when people skip over Thanksgiving & go straight to Christmas? What if focusing on Christmas actually fueled our Thanksgiving?

A healthy Christmas obsession will enhance our Thanksgiving celebration!

And what if the meaning of Christmas effected how we view all of life, our past, our present and our future? **Let there be Christmas all year long!!!**

What word/words come to mind when you think of the true meaning of Christmas? _____

Excerpt from a sermon by Charles Spurgeon on Christmas Eve in 1854

Immanuel – God with us! It is the longing of the hearts of God's people!

Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

When this prophecy was written, the only hope God's people Israel had was Immanuel – God with us, for Darkness, destruction & death was their fate!

It is why these words from my favorite Christmas Carol are so powerful!
Vs.1 - “O Come O Come Emmanuel, & ransom captive Israel. That mourns in lowly exile here. Until the Son of God appear.” There is **hope** in these words!

They can rejoice! Not in their circumstances, but in God's promise, **“Emmanuel, shall come to thee O Israel.”** The Messiah will come & set them free!

The words of this song go even further in meaning in vs. 2, when it speaks of an even greater escape than that of physical death or the death of a nation!

Vs. 2 - “O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell Thy people save. And give them victory over the grave.”

Our exile is not in Assyria/Babylon, it's the depths of hell, & Jesus saves us!

Vs. 3 – “O come Thou Day-spring, come & cheer, our spirits by Thine advent here; O drive away the shades of night. And pierce the clouds & bring us light.”

At Christmas time we are obsessed with lighting stuff up... but **the true light of the world is He who came into the world that first Christmas night!**

When there is light at the end of the tunnel, there is hope. And where there is hope, there is life. And where there is life, there is great rejoicing!

Words matter, they have meaning! What greater words could be spoken/sung then **“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee O Israel!”?**

Hear these words of God's Christmas promise - **Isaiah 9:1-7**

Do you need a reason to celebrate & give thanks this Thanksgiving?

How about celebrating the true meaning of Christmas! Immanuel- God with us!

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