

Christmas

Monday, 12/28/09 – Read Isaiah 7:10-16

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: What is the context of the passage in Isaiah? It appears that Isaiah is telling Israel that before a child could be born and raised to know the difference between good and evil that the people Israel dreads will be demolished and that this will be an indication that God is with them (Emmanuel). This passage is quoted by Matthew as a prophecy about the coming Messiah born to Mary. We as God's people need assurances that God is with us in every aspect of our lives. How are you reminded that God is with you today?

Tuesday, 12/29/09 – Read John 1:1-14

My Observations: _____

A Thought to Think About: God has always been with Israel even when the people did not think so. But under the new covenant, God is not a pillar of cloud or a pillar of fire that follows us. Under the new covenant God comes to be with us in human flesh. That the eternal creating God would take on the time limiting flesh is a real statement of God's intent to be with us not simply spiritually but in taking on actual flesh and living as you and I live. The word became flesh and lived among us. Astounding!!!

Wednesday, 12/30/09 – Read Colossians 2:8-10

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Here is a mystery. All the completeness of God was in Jesus. How can God be both God and flesh completely at the same time? Impossible! But it is not impossible with God. That God went so far as to be both fully human and fully God at the same time is another indication that God really wants to be with us without losing his godness. This also means that he can understand the trials and joys that we experience every day and therefore he can be with us in all our experiences. How does that affect how you will live today?

Thursday, 12/31/09 – Read Philippians 2:5-8

My Observations: _____

A Thought to Think About: This passage indicates the enormity of what Jesus did when he emptied himself and took on the form of human flesh. Jesus did not exploit his divinity but utilized it to show His identification with you and I. Note the terms: form of God, taking form of a slave, born in human likeness, was liable to death even death on a cross. This is the extent to which Jesus went that he might be Emmanuel i.e. God with us.

Friday, 1/1/10 – Read Philippians 2:5-8

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The point to this passage is a lesson on humility. If God put on flesh and became

subject to its limitations, then certainly we as humans should practice that same kind of humility toward one another. We can do this by being “with” others who are experiencing great joy or tragic sorrow. And no one is an exception to this. Is there someone this week that you need to be “with” as they experience joys or sorrows?

Saturday, 1/2/10 – Read **Philippians 2:9-11**

My Observations: _____

A Thought to Think About: The great sacrifice by Jesus in becoming flesh and becoming obedient to death even death on a cross is accompanied by the fact that God raises Him up and gives Him a name above all names. The promise to us is that as we trust in Jesus, he is not only with us now but we will be with Him in eternity. Therefore God is always “with” us as we trust in Him. We are never alone, God is always with us.

Sunday, 1/3/10 – Read **Isaiah 11:1-9**

My Observations: _____

A Thought to Think About: The message of Christmas is not simply for Christmas but for the entire year. God sent His son to be with us. In Advent we await his coming and after Advent we can continue to rejoice because He is with us during the coming year in all that it brings. He is Emmanuel.

My Faith Journal, December 27, 2009

First Sunday after Christmas Day

God is with us, Emmanuel

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.