**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

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**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted December 6, 2020**

**T I T L E: God With Us**

**T E X T: Matthew 1:18-25**

**I. Speaking from a general perspective God is with us but not necessarily like us in every aspect of our human condition although without a doubt He was fully human.**

A. God in the person of Jesus Christ came into the world (Matt. 1:23; John 1:14) with a purpose in mind (Luke 19:10) initiated not only by His love for mankind (John 3:16; 1 John 3:16) but also by His desire to solve the human predicament of sin (Romans 3:23) which accounts for life in this world as being unnatural, i.e., life in this world is not what God intended it to be.

B. God in the person of Jesus Christ is with us in this life to make things in this life better but not necessarily perfect; nevertheless, take heart, He has overcome life in this world promising a life of perfection in heaven for all who are born again.

Real and lasting change will come eventually... but not by any politician or world leader other than Him.

John 16:33 ---- “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

“...take courage” – It can be translated, “Have courage!” “Cheer up!” “Don’t be afraid!” This imperative was used by Jesus in both Matthew 14:27 and Mark 6:50 to encourage His disciples when they saw Him walking on the water**. Implicit in the imperative is the idea that fear can be replaced with trust.**

C. God in the person of Jesus Christ is with us in terms of identity in the sense that He knows full well what it is like to be human, thus He responds to our sinfulness with mercy and grace but not necessarily without discipline or indescribable judgment especially toward those who refuse to believe in Him. (The Great Sympathizer)

Numbers 14:18 ---- ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.’ (**God is extremely patient. However, His patience can be exhausted.**)

Psalm 103:10–11 ----10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

**II. Speaking from a more specific perspective God is with us personally, intimately, and situationally.**

1. God with us Personally and Intimately

Matthew 10:30 ---- “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Luke 12:7 ----“Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.

God is aware of and exercises control over even the most basic aspects of our lives.

Isaiah 41:10 ----So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Joshua 1:9 – Have I not commanded you be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you where-ever you go.

Hebrews 13:5–6 ---- 5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," 6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

1. God with us Situationally (Again, we must walk by faith...)

2 Kings 6:15–17 ---- 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” 16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Note... Billy Graham’s book Angels, Angels, Angels... Dr. Paten missionary

**III. Speaking from an “absolute necessity” perspective God was with us in the person of Christ (fully human/fully divine) personally committed to do the redemptive will of the Father for mankind.**

Jesus said in the garden of Gethsemane, “...nevertheless not my will but thine be done.”

1. The implication of the miraculous merging of His two natures is that salvation is of God.
2. The implication of the miraculous merging of His two natures is that the Lord desires all men to be saved but not at the expense of man’s freedom to resist His salvation even though He draws them to Himself through the drawing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 2:3–4 ---- 3) This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

John 6:44 ---- “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.