



*"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." —Matthew 1:23*

**His Birth in History.** "...that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35). Jesus Christ was born *into* this world, not *from* it. He did not emerge out of history; He came into history from the outside. Jesus Christ is not the best human being the human race can boast of— He is a Being for whom the human race can take no credit at all. He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate— God coming into human flesh from outside it. His life is the highest and the holiest entering through the most humble

of doors. Our Lord's birth was an advent—the appearance of God in human form.

**His Birth in Me.** "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you..." that "Christ is formed" in me. And once "Christ is formed" in me, His nature immediately begins to work through me. Just as our Lord came into history from outside it, He must also come into me from outside. Have I allowed my personal human life to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God? I cannot enter the realm of the kingdom of God unless I am born again from above by a birth totally unlike physical birth. "You must be born again" (John 3:7). This is not a command, but a fact based on the authority of God. The evidence of the new

**God Evident in the Flesh.** This is what is made so profoundly possible for you and for me through the redemption of man by Jesus Christ.

**Comment:** The plan, God's plan is one of Redemption. He wants us to be "*reconciled*", that is, to have a relationship with him. God wants to be part of our lives; good, bad or otherwise. He does not want us to only call out to him when we encounter times of trouble. He is not a "one way God".

Could it be that simple? It could be except for one little thing called "Sin". If we lust after sin, things like money, sex, success in business, achieving celebrity status and a position of what we think is "prominence", then those things that we lust after will become our god. And that is the one thing that God doesn't put up with. There can be no reconciliation where we put other things before God. He will not tolerate second place in our lives. He is either first and in our lives or he is not in our lives.

To complicate matters even more, man is a sinful creature. It is our nature to seek those things and we do not have the power to overcome our sinful nature. That is why Christ was offered up as payment for our sins and the only way we will ever be able to reconcile with God is if we let him be our Lord. When we do that, we will put God first and all else will be added unto us.