

The Baby Changes Everything
I AM with You Always
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:9-11

Pastor Paul Bond
Bethel Church
December 27, 2015

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Notes:

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At Home Study Guide

For the week of December 27, 2015

Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:9-11

Quick Review

In the beginning of our 5 week journey studying the First Advent of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, we've reflected on the prophecies concerning His coming; the declaration from an angelic messenger of the Forerunner to the anticipated arrival of the Messiah; the selection of the Blessed Virgin who would give birth to the Messiah; and the first worshippers at the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem; the angels and shepherds. From the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew in chapter 1 to the end of Matthew 28, the message is crystal clear; Immanuel—"God with us," is still with us, He will always be with us, and He is coming back again for us!

Growing Deeper

- The Baby born 2,000 years ago changed everything. The world's calendar system is a reflection of the birth of the Messiah: **B.C.** (Before Christ); **A.D.** (Anno Domini, "birth of our Lord"). Though many try, we cannot separate Christ from Christmas. In what ways do you see the world separating Christ from Christmas? In an age of distractions and busyness, how can you and your family **avoid** separating Christ from Christmas? Are there any safeguards you can apply to keep Christmas holy?
- **READ, Interpret and Discuss Matthew 28:19-20.** As we celebrate Jesus' birth, His ministry and His we are reminded of Jesus' mandate for all His followers throughout the ages: "our mission is to make disciples." What does that look like for you?
- **The Rest of the Story** - The First Advent Immanuel, "God with Us," came as an infant; He lived a sinless life and He sacrificially died for the sins of the world. **READ, interpret and discuss Acts 1:10-11; Revelation 19:11-16.** How is the Second Advent of Jesus Christ different then His first Advent?

Taking it Home

- Jesus is going to come back again. How should His coming again, at any time, impact your life? How should you respond?
- Do you personally know Jesus Christ as your Savior? Are you ready for Him to come again?
- Does the first advent of Jesus Christ give you assurance of the second coming? How?

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