

Why did He come personally? Emmanuel. Luke 1:26-38,
2:8:14

1. Good news is worth celebrating.

- It is personal “I bring you”
- It is positive “ Good news of great joy”
- It is universal “for all the people”

God loves you, God is with you, God is for you.

Emmanuel is here to save. Luke 2:11; Ephesians 2:10

- Fear / Hurt
- From something and for something.
- Freedom from guilt of the past, bitterness, resentment

What about doubt? Mark 9:21-21; John 20:25-29

- Emmanuel has come to be with you in doubt.

Emmanuel brings peace. Luke 2:14; Romans 5:11; proverbs 13:11;
Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Peace with God

Peace of God

Peace with others

“I Am” statements of Jesus. (Emmanuel)

Review these statements to help you know Him personally.

-study by Jack Kelle.

1. The Bread Of Life tells us that Jesus is the One who spiritually sustains us. *Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:35)* Every one who seeks Him will find Him (**Matt. 7:7-8**), but each of us has to find Him for ourselves. No one else can receive Him for us, nor can we receive Him for anyone else. We all get an amount sufficient for our salvation. No one is lacking, none of Him is wasted. The Psalmist wrote, *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. (Psalm 42:1)* In Jesus our spiritual hunger is satisfied and our spiritual thirst is quenched. Once we have the Holy Spirit, our search for spiritual fulfillment comes to an end, and we never need any other sustenance. The God shaped hole in our heart is finally filled.

2. The Light Of The World we learn that through Him we gain spiritual understanding and wisdom for living. *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)* Literally this means that those who join Jesus as one of His followers will not be ignorant of spiritual matters but will have the power of understanding especially of the spiritual truth that brings eternal life. When we take the time to learn and apply these truths in faith we discover that the old adage is true. Whatever the spiritual question, Jesus is the answer. Are you feeling down trodden or discouraged? Overcome by the worries of life? Do you carry a burden of guilt because of your sins? (**1 John 1:9**). Do you have money problems? (**Luke 6:38**) (**2 Cor. 9:11**) I’ll say it again. Whatever the spiritual question, Jesus is the answer.

3. The Gate explains that He has given us free and unlimited access to His Kingdom. *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. (John 10:9)* Salvation is found through Jesus, He is the gate to the Kingdom, and no one can enter except through Him (**John 3:3, John 14:6**). Having entered through Him we will have the freedom to come and go as we please, dwelling in a state of peace in the midst of plenty.

4. The Good Shepherd shows how He did this by paying our entrance fee with His life. *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* (**John 10:11**) No one expects sheep to be responsible for themselves. Owners hire shepherds for that purpose. A shepherd's job is to accept responsibility for the safety and well being of his flock, but our Shepherd knowingly and willingly died to save us, because there was no other way.

5. The Resurrection And The Life we learn that whether we die before the rapture or are taken live in it, He has guaranteed our eternal life with God. Jesus said to her, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."* (**John 11:25-26**) This is an amazing statement. The Lord had already said that whoever believes in Him would not perish but would have eternal life (**John 3:16**). Once again the Lord confirmed that the single qualification for eternal life is to believe that His death paid the entire price for our sins.

6. The Way, The Truth, And The Life explains that He is the only one who can do this for us. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (**John 14:6**) There is no other way into the presence of God than by accepting the Lord's death as payment in full for our sins. (**Acts 4:12**) Jesus is the only remedy God has provided for man's sin problem. He is the only way to eternal life. This is the truth of God's Word.

7. The Vine reveals that for the balance of our life on Earth, the things we do in His strength, out of gratitude for what He's done for us, are the only things that matter. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* (**John 15:5**) If we yield our life to Him, (**Romans 12:1-2**) and respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit He sent to guide us (**John 14:26**) we can bear much fruit. If not, our lives will be unfruitful, because without Him we can do nothing of spiritual value.

Study list provided by Peter Swenson. Complete list at seekreallife.com

Books

- **On Guard by William Lane Craig** - good, fairly easy to grasp philosophical, scientific & historical evidences for the claims of Christianity. Craig is incredibly bright & respected around the world.
- **The Case for the Real Jesus by Lee Strobel** - Informative & entertaining book from a popular atheist journalist-turned-Christian apologist. Renowned scholars offer responses to arguments & evidence being advanced by prominent atheists, liberal theologians, Muslim scholars, and others.
- **Simply Christian by NT Wright** - a thoughtful historical introduction to Christianity. Wright is very prolific & highly regarded.
- **Letters from a Skeptic by Gregory Boyd** - The author & his father debate many objections to Christianity, the church, and the Bible.
- **Reason, Faith, and Revolution by Terry Eagleton** - Very smart, witty & incisive response to Dawkins & Hitchens.
- **Jesus and the Eyewitnesses by Richard Bauckham** - amazingly thorough and detailed historical analysis & insight into the gospels in their context & why we can believe they are reliable as eyewitness accounts

Websites:

1. **reasonablefaith.org** - a huge collection of essays, debates & more from William Lane Craig
2. **garyhabermas.com** - essays, audio & some free ebooks from the world's leading scholar in resurrection-of-Jesus studies
3. **coldcasechristianity.com** - investigates the gospels & evidence for a divinely created universe

Podcasts:

1. **Unbelievable?** - British podcast & radio show featuring debates about many aspects of Christianity
2. **Reasonable Faith** - Q&A with theologian/philosopher William Lane Craig
3. **Defenders** - in depth systematic theology class with William Lane Craig
4. **White Horse Inn** - to help Christians "know what they believe and why they believe it" through conversational theology