



Part 1: Hope

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## 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

### The message of Jesus is:

**Continual** - *"I want to remind you"*

**Proclamational** - *"I preached to you"*

**Personal** - *"you received"*

**Eternal** - *"By this gospel you are saved"*

**Central** - *"I passed on to you as of first importance"*

**Christological** - *"that Christ died"*

**Substitutional** - *Christ died for our sins"*

**Transformational** - *"raised again on the third day"*

### Key Principle

What we have received we are to pass on to other people.

*"For what I received, I passed on to you..."*

## Matthew 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (*continues on back*)

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:  
<sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

**Not one name, but two:**     Yeshua  
  Immanuel

### **The First Mention of Immanuel:**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. – Isaiah 7:14

The context of this verse is Isaiah 7, and the chapter is not about “the most wonderful time of the year.” It’s a judgment oracle against Israel for their idolatry and faithlessness.

### **Meaning of the Names**

Immanuel – God with us

Yeshua (Jesus) – God saves

### **Application of the Names**

Because *God saves* and *God is with us*, our fitting response should be to regift both the presence and the salvation of Jesus to everyone.

### **Next Steps: Invite Friends and Family this Season**

The Christmas season offers a unique opportunity to invite people who wouldn’t normally come to church. We’ve planned the ReGift series, Christmas concert, and Christmas Eve services with them in mind. See details on insert.

Special invitations for Christmas Eve are available in the Commons today. Pick up one for each person or family you plan to invite, write who it’s “to” and “from,” and hand deliver each one for that personal touch.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What are your plans for Christmas Eve and Christmas day?
- 2) Have you ever received anything precious that you later passed on to someone special? Why didn’t you keep it for yourself?
- 3) God is known by many names. Is there a name of God have you held on to when facing the challenges of life?
- 4) How does the truth that *God is with us* and *God saves* change the way you interact with people who don’t know him?
- 5) Who can you “bring and include” to know Jesus this Christmas season? How can we encourage you to follow through on inviting others?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?