

## **THE CANDLE OF JOY**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

No other word so completely captures the Christmas Spirit and yet for many “Christmas Joy” is absent. They are missing the assurance, peace and joy that come when Christmas (and their life) has real meaning. Joy comes from Christ and keeping it will depend on our focus.

#### **I. THE JOY OF THE NAME ...JESUS (Matthew 1:18-21)**

1. Joseph was a troubled man, but He let His focus go to God.
2. He took time to think (and I believe: pray).
3. God sent an angel to him to explain Mary’s condition.
4. The angel told him the baby boy’s name would be “Jesus.”
5. Jesus: (same root as Joshua) means = “Jehovah is salvation.”
6. This was the fulfillment of prophecy from Psalms 130:8.
7. Every person who will ever live will exist forever... BUT, there will be no joy in eternal existence without Jesus!
8. There are two ways into heaven: perfection and God’s provision.  
If you sin...God made only one provision: His only Son Jesus.

#### **II. THE JOY OF “EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US” (Matthew 1:22-25)**

1. Through the incarnation, God has become a man.
2. God is suddenly no longer “out there” ...He is “here” with us!

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Humankind has always pursued happiness.
2. The world’s lifts are a counterfeit for true joy.
3. True Joy (found in Christ) is permanent and eternal:
  - It is found by faith, and it is the key to a joyful Christmas.
  - It is the key to joyful living every day.
  - It is the key to a joyful eternity!