

## A New Normal

- We humans tend to be “event driven”! We are looking for the:
  - Next day off.
  - Next holiday around the corner.
  - Next season of the year.
  - Next opportunity to get something right.
  - Next job that will surely fulfill me.
  - Next place to live that will make me happy.
  - Next church service to help me through the week.
  - Next...
  
- The awesome truth about the coming of The Lord, the Incarnation or when The Word was made Flesh or when God came...it was so very normal...but it was a whole new normal!
  
- Read from “When God Came Near” pages 3-5.
  
- I. Before we stop to consider the “new normal” we must, in order to fully appreciate it, remember the “old normal!”
  - A. All throughout scripture we see a yearning of the heart of man for His God!
    1. In Isaiah the Lord says, “Stop fighting against Me and come, let us talk about life.”
    2. He later says, “I have given you word after word and now I will even give you a sign of my promise of healing the divide between you and Me. I will cause a virgin to give birth.”
    3. He continues by saying, “You have walked around in darkness because of your sin, but I’m sending The Light into the world.”
    4. “A child, who has never existed before will be born and Son, Who has always existed will be given for you.”
    5. Isaiah further explains that, “He will completely change everything because He will have all authority. He will shake creation by His words, He will destroy wickedness and evil, He will provide justice for those who need it!”

6. Through the Messianic Prophecies we realize that, “If we are truly thirsty, we simply need to come and drink because it’s free! This refreshing costs us nothing...but yet it costs us our selfishness!
7. Then we hear the Prophet say, “Seek the Lord while He can be found. Call on Him while He is near.”

B. THIS is what all our hearts long for whether we realize it or not!

1. We fill our lives with so many things, but The Lord Himself is the only fulfillment that will satisfy the longing of our hearts.
2. Busyness is our greatest enemy!!!
3. With it we distract ourselves from what satisfies.
4. With it we mask our pain and disfunction!
5. Like the story of “Martha and Mary”, all God wants is for us to take time to sit at His feet!
6. Remember what Jesus’ response was:

Luke 10:42 (TPT)

42 Mary has discovered the one thing most important by choosing to sit at my feet. She is undistracted, and I won’t take this privilege from her.”

II. Let’s together discover the wonderful “new normal” that came by way of one of the most “normal, uneventful and mundane” happenings in history! The Day when God Came Near!

A. Ephesians 3:14-19 (NLT)

14 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, 15 the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.[b] 16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then

you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

B. Church, THIS IS THE NEW NORMAL according to the Gospel!!!

1. You are empowered through the Spirit of God!
2. Christ is with you and in you!
3. You are kept strong by putting your roots in God's love for you!
4. You do have the ability to continually discover the depth of God's love for you!
5. You can not only understand Christ's love for you but you can EXPERIENCE IT!
6. This "new normal" we have all received has made us complete with all the fullness and power of God's intention of life!

C. This is the reason we celebrate Advent and the Incarnation or coming of  
The Word made Flesh!