

GOSPEL GRACE

CHURCH

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP GATHERING
**THE SOVEREIGN SCANDALOUS
LINE OF THE MESSIAH**
DECEMBER 23, 2012 - 10:30am

Thank you for joining us today and Merry Christmas to you! Thank you for making Gospel Grace Church a part of your holiday season. We celebrate the good news of Christmas--that Jesus left heaven to come to earth as our Savior. He came to His own, and we pray that today by His grace we will receive Him!

Each Sunday this month, we've been looking at different answers to the question: *What is the good news about God is with us?* So far, we've seen that He willingly stepped into our place as fully God and fully man. Today, all those truths come together in Jesus' place in history. Jesus did not magically appear outside the bounds of time. Christmas answers so many questions for us. Does God keep His word? Can God overcome my sin and inadequacies? Does God want me? In Jesus, all these answers are yes! Today's passage may be one that we often skip over or consider as only informational, but in reality it is full of mystery, scandal and beautiful grace. Today, we will see a God we can trust, a God who is powerful, and a God who welcomes us into His kingdom, because today's passage is all about Emmanuel--God with us. Jesus steps into our sinful history and declares that God keeps His word, conquers our sinfulness and welcomes us into God's presence. That's good news and it must affect our lives. Let's allow God's word to change us today! We have included several discussion questions on the next page to help you in that journey.

NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME - 10:30AM @ FORT DOUGLAS POST CHAPEL

REMEMBERING OUR SAVIOR IN THE NEW YEAR

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SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ☀ **What areas of your life have you doubted God's goodness and providence?** Have you subtly relegated situations of your life to outside the control and direction of God? How would meditating on God's way and timing of keeping His promises to David and Abraham ignite greater faith and trust in your heart toward Him. Perhaps using columns similar to these would help.

God showed His control by...

Therefore, I know He is...in me.

- ☀ **Though we may never know God's timing or plan in everything He is doing in us, what bedrock truths must guide our thoughts about Him?** For example, "I don't know what God is doing here, but it can't be that He doesn't love me." or "This situation hurts, but I know God is..."

- ☀ **God conquered every difficulty in His genealogy in Jesus Christ. What obstacles (real or imagined) do you see in your own life between you and God?** Cross off every one that Jesus conquered in His coming.

- ☀ **Do you live as a citizen of the kingdom of grace?** Jesus came to establish a radically new kingdom. It is a welcoming community for all those who come to Him in repentance and faith. It tears down our cultural boundaries. What are your struggles in living as a member of this community? Do you share the same thoughts and responses to yourself and others as God does?

- ☀ **Matthew clearly shows us that this story of King Jesus coming is true. Have you given your life to this King?** Have you admitted your sin and trusted in His conquering grace to allow you to be a member of His kingdom? If you have questions about how you can respond rightly to the truth of Jesus coming, please see one of our core team.