

LIVING HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

SERMON SERIES: ADVENT

Sermon Message: Preparation—Believing God's Promises
Will Be Fulfilled
December 4, 2011
Dr. Jason Pettus

Public Reading: Luke 2:10-11
Next Week's Text: Luke 1:26-56

CHRISTMAS CALLS US TO BELIEVE...

ONE OF THE GREAT _____ OF GOD
Matthew 1:18 (Pew Bible page 807)

THE GRACE OF GOD PRODUCES _____
Matthew 1:19 (Pew Bible page 807)

THE _____ OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
Matthew 1:20-23 (Pew Bible page 807)

SACRIFICES FOR GOD'S _____ ARE WORTH IT
Matthew 1:24-25 (Pew Bible page 807)

FAITH IS LIBERATING!
FAITH ALLOWS US TO BE _____ WITH
OURSELVES
AND TO _____ GOD.
Hebrews 11:1, 6 (Pew Bible page 1007)

NOTE: You can check out Pastor Jason's thoughts at on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/pastorjpettus.

A copy of today's message is available at the kiosk in the lobby immediately following the service.
Suggested donation for CDs is \$2. First time guests get today's CD free by turning in your guest card
at the Welcome Center.

This study guide is a resource for your Small Group to use for further study about today's sermon. If you need to find a Small Group, please contact Matt Haste at mhaste@lhb.org or 843-9462. You can view a list of our Small Groups at www.livinghopewired.com.

A C L O S E R L O O K

M a t t h e w 1 : 1 8 - 2 5

The first section of Matthew 1 shows the entire paternal genealogy of Jesus. Verse 16 is the first hint we get that something miraculous happened surrounding the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Matthew's Christmas story begins in verse 18 by showing the confusion of Joseph when he realizes that his fiancée is pregnant, but the child is not his. Matthew reveals Joseph's compassion when he decides to simply divorce Mary quietly instead of sticking to Mosaic Law and having her stoned for adultery. Matthew reveals God intervening in His creation and telling Joseph that all is well and that he is playing an integral role in the redemption of God and man. The angel then tells Joseph how Jesus' name fits into God's plan as laid out in the rest of His Word. Finally, Matthew shows us Joseph's obedience in marrying Mary. This passage about the coming of Christ gives us several key points regarding Jesus' earthly father, Joseph and his obedience:

He was obedient to the call of a husband (v18-19)

He was obedient to the call of a father (v20-23)

He was obedient to the call of a disciple (v24-25)

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).*

Matthew 1:22-23 ESV

1. **When Mary was found to be pregnant, Joseph was caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place. When those situations have arisen in your life, how did God provide for you?**
2. **Joseph's fiancée had become pregnant, and he was not the father. It would have been very easy for him to doubt that God was still in control. Have you ever doubted that God was in control? What does Scripture say about God's control over His creation?**
3. **Immanuel, one of Jesus' names means God with us. How is God with you?**
4. **Joseph received the word of the Lord through Gabriel and immediately acted on what he learned. Through reading the Scriptures, we have direct access to the word of the Lord. How do we need to respond to what God teaches us through the Bible?**