

ENCOURAGEMENT BULLETIN No. 143

**Turn from evil and do good; then you will always live securely.
For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.** (Psalm 37:27-28, NIV)

**The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the
glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
(John 1:14 (NIV))

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We call Mary's child "Emmanuel" because we see in him the God who has always been with us,
always in the midst. There is no need for him to intervene as a stranger from the outside world.
He is already here. (John V. Taylor, "The Go-Between God.")

**"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name
Jesus"
"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"** (Luke 1: 31, 34, NIV)

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A virgin birth seems a most appropriate and creative way for God to enter His world.
(Paul Smith, "His Miracles")

**The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing good news that will be a
great joy to all people. Today your Saviour was born in the town of David. He is
Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: you will find a baby wrapped in
pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."** (Luke 2: 10-12, NCV)

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Christ is born: glorify him. Christ comes from heaven: go out to meet him. Christ descends to
earth: let us be raised on high. (St.Gregory of Nazianzus, Cappadocian Father)

**The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect
day.** (Proverbs 4:18)

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Gracious God, thank you for the gift of Your glorious Son, the Light of the world and the Light of
my life. May the force of His light in me cause my life to radiate even a portion of His redeeming
love. . . . **Thank You, God, for the Light of the world.** (Shirlee Steward, "Sixty Seconds")

**"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the light of all
people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."**
(Luke 2:29-32, NIV)

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A baby's hands in Bethlehem were small and softly curled.
But held within their dimpled grasp the hope of all the world.
(Leslie Savage, "The Quotable Christian")

The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
He is their stronghold in time of trouble.
The Lord helps them and delivers them;
He delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
Because they take refuge in him. (Psalm 37:39-40, NIV)