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Matthew 1:18-25

18. “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

19. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

20. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21. ‘She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’

22. Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23. ‘BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,’ which translated means, ‘GOD WITH US.’

24. And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife,

25. but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and

he called His name Jesus.”

In verse 21 the angel of the Lord proclaims a very significant truth: “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

First Jesus will save His people. According to Acts 11:26, the disciples of Jesus were first called Christians at Antioch. This was the first prominent congregation to be composed of people from both Jewish and Gentile backgrounds fellowshiping and working together. The term “Christian” in the Greek means “part of Christ.” The New Testament Scriptures speak of Christians as members of Christ’s body. In effect we are Christ to this generation!

Next Matthew 1:21 goes on to state that Jesus “will save His people from their sins.” Notice the angel of the Lord did not say Jesus came to save His people in their sins. This seems to be the popular message today in many churches. It is preached that the grace of God will cover those who believe in Christ even if they continue to practice their sins.

The apostle Paul states in Romans 6:1 and 2, “Are we to continue