

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for December 21, 2008

Keeping our focus on Christ
Matthew 1:21-2:4
Dale Whitehead

What terms were used to identify Christ in Matthew 1:21-2:4?

The first term used to identify Christ in Matthew 1:21-2:4 was the name “Jesus” (Matthew 1:21).

The name Jesus is a form of the Hebrew word YESHOSHUA, JOSHUA, JESHUAH, JEHO SUAH, and means “YAHWEH will save.”

If Christ had not come to save His people and to deliver them from spiritual death, there would be no hope of them escaping sin’s domination in this life or eternal damnation in the next (Romans 5:12).

Christ, by shedding His blood, or in other words, through giving up His life, paid the debt that we owed to God because of our sin and in so doing made it possible for us to be saved (Matthew 26:28).

The second term used to identify Christ in Matthew 1:21-2:4 was the name “Immanuel” (Matthew 1:23).

The child of Christmas was not just 100% man but also 100% God. Therefore, the child of Christmas was to be named “Immanuel” or in other words “God with us.”

Because God lived with us as a man we can now confidently come before Him as our sympathetic high priest and find grace to help in the time of our need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

The third term that was used to identify Christ in Matthew 1:21-2:4 was the term “King of the Jews” (Matthew 2:1-4).

The Hebrew word used to refer to the “King of the Jews” is the word “Messiah,” and the Greek word used to refer to the “King of the Jews” is “Christ.”

Christ, in fulfilling His promises to the Jews will extend His rule, as the King of the Jews, over the whole earth during His Millennial reign (Revelation 19:11-16).

May God give us the grace to focus on Christ, not only during this Christmas season, but always.

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