

The Good news of My Emanuel

December 18th 2011

www.myemanuel.com

5th edition

Sermon :: [Life impacting scripture](#) :: [Testimony](#) :: [Praise and Prayer request](#) :: [Reviews](#)

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" 3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" (Mark 1:1-3 NIV)

We are growing!

Praise the Lord! My Emanuel is growing and He is providing us with faithful brothers and sisters in Christ to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ! We would like to officially welcome Vickie our sister in Christ and a dedicated women of faith to the team. Vickie will be helping out with the Facebook page and anywhere else the Lord will have a use for her! Please make sure you follow us by liking our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/myemanuel>.

Praise the Lord for providing inspiration and wisdom, for allowing us to share His message and struggle to be examples for our brothers and sisters. Please check out the blog we have added at <http://www.myemanuel.com/blog> – The Lord has provided many messages for us to share throughout the week and we will continue to use the blog to provide in-between newsletters and to share anything we can to provide for your walk with Lord and to glorify His mighty name.

Please remember that we are always in need of prayer request, praise request, and anything you would have the body of My Emanuel pray over. We are a ministry with the purpose to serve God however and wherever He will have us! If you are in need of prayer, advice, or have anything you need assistance with please use the Emanuel Connect feature at <http://www.myemanuel.com/emanuelconnect/index.php> or contact us directly at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com – God bless!



Sections

The Good news of My Emanuel is split up into several sections to make what you are looking for easy to find! The sections of our newsletter are:

- Weekly sermon (red)
- Weekly life impacting scripture (blue)
- Testimony (green)
- Prayer and praise request (yellow)
- Reviews and newly found ministries (pink)

This color coded section should allow you to gain quick access to any portion of this newsletter, we know that some days you will have time to read all the way through, other days you will want to jump directly to something in the newsletter.

Get involved!

My Emanuel is growing thanks to the power of the Lord and his blessings! Praise you Heavenly Father! If you are interested in doing more for the Lord and providing for your brothers and sisters through the many tools the Lord has provided us with please check out <http://www.myemanuel.com/getinvolved.html>. Also remember to "like" us on Facebook to see our post on your wall as we post them! Also remember to check us out on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/myemanuel>. We pray the Lord will open your heart to serve him even more and you would work with us! Amen.

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews Chapter 4 verse 12)

Please visit www.myemanuel.com for more information about our ministry and how to help!

Weekly Sermon

Timothy Higginbotham – My Emanuel – <http://www.myemanuel.com>

Righteousness and Persecution

Have you ever noticed today's society? We all talk about which celebrity is pregnant now. We talk about the football player that shot himself in the leg. We talk about that 'slut' down the street, or say how that person's trash and deserves what they get. We say the homeless are useless and should get a job. We call people who don't join in the conversations stuck up, or that they think they're better than us. We talk about vulgar scenarios, and use sexual innuendos. We do things we KNOW are wrong because we don't care, and they make us feel good. Smoking, drinking to excess, sex, strip clubs, gossip, lust, fighting, gambling, gluttony, laziness, and pride. Every part of our culture is corrupt and sinful in nature. Most of us Christians do all these things and then go to church on Sunday!

You might say, "But even Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors!" That is true but these people repented of their sins and tried to be righteous. They didn't want to sin, or sin willfully.

"But no one's perfect..."
This is true as well, and this is why we need Jesus!

Romans 3:10
New International Version (NIV)
10 As it is written:
"There is no one righteous, not even one;

John 14:6
New International Version (NIV)
6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We may not be perfect but we can try! And as Christians we CAN NOT willfully sin!!!!

Hebrews 10:26-29
New International Version (NIV)
26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Know that righteousness is not an easy task and we will be persecuted for it. But we are to rejoice! How much greater will we be rewarded for that persecution! And know that we could never trump the suffering and sacrifice Jesus made for us nor should we try.

Matthew 5:10-12
New International Version (NIV)
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way

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they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 15:18-20

New International Version (NIV)

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.'^[a] If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

2 Timothy 3:12

New International Version (NIV)

12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

2 Corinthians 4:8-12

New International Version (NIV)

8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

1 Peter 4:12-20

New International Version (NIV)

Suffering for Being a Christian

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"^[a]

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

And always remember when people question you...

1 Peter 4:4-5

New International Version (NIV)

4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Life impacting scripture

Daniel Higginbotham – My Emanuel – <http://www.myemanuel.com>

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark Chapter 2 verse 17 NIV)

Have you ever went to the emergency room and waited in line for a few hours and when the doctor ask "what brings you in tonight" you smile and respond, "nothing I just need a check up doc!" I know after waiting a few hours it can seem like some people come in and do that but of course you haven't! Never would you go into somewhere and wait forever truly not in need of anything! And you most certainly wouldn't seek out help for something unless you "needed" help.

It is so hard to see "Christians" and people who talk about worshiping the Lord and loving and serving Him turn those who seek the Lord away! A warning to my fellow believers about turning people away when they seek the Lord, God did not deny you the chance to have salvation, don't try and deny someone else the right to be free! For anyone who thinks they have the right to judge a brother or sister and deny them the savior Jesus Christ remember:

15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" (Mark Chapter 2 verse 15-16)

Jesus Christ had dinner, had fellowship, and broke bread with sinners, tax collectors, and the lowest of low in Jewish society. Why? How powerful is our Father in Heaven that He can save even the most hopeless cause? How loving is the Lord that He seeks a relationship with the people society sees as "outcast" or "garbage". If you are reading this today and a Christian has turned their back on you and told you that you aren't good enough to be a Christian or they have judged you I ask for forgiveness on behalf of my brother or sister. Christian's you must understand what the Lord said: **"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

For the Lord came to save all who will call on his name! Friends if you have been told before that you must be special, know you are special in the eyes of the Lord. If you have been told you aren't good enough, remember the "garbage" of this society shall be given a crown from the Lord for enduring their suffering and being faithful! Call on the name of Jesus Christ and ask that He save you! That He would be your Lord and savior! For remember that He is the "Good Physician", Jesus Christ can heal your mind, your body, and your soul. His blessings are eternal and His love for your is so great that He gave his life on his own, so that you would never have to experience the damnation for your sins! Repent and call on the name of the Lord!

Find out more about how easy it is to become forgiven please visit us at <http://www.myemanuel.com/iamready.html> and fellowship and ask questions online at <http://www.myemanuel.com/emanuelconnect/index.php>. God bless friends!

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Testimony

Timothy Higginbotham – My Emanuel – <http://www.myemanuel.com>

Would you like to share your testimony with the readers of The Good News of My Emanuel? Don't worry! You stay anonymous if you prefer! Please contact us directly at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com if you are pressed by the Lord to share your testimony! May God give you the courage to testify how His grace has saved you or how he has answered your prayers! Amen.

My name is Timothy Higginbotham. I have just completed my first semester of college. Let me say that college can be a very good thing, but also can be a very lonely place for someone trying to do good things or be righteous. Any thing you can imagine has happened at college. Drugs. Sex. Fast racing. Fighting. Killing. Gossiping. And sometimes a combination of all of them!

My personal testimony is from a time I tried to hang out with some ["friends"]. The conversations could start off innocently enough and I could even be involved in the conversations....but then....WHAM! Sex and everything else would pop up in a conversation.

People telling another friend (a girl) that they were lame or had a problem for only having sex with one person. They had so many partners they could almost not count them! And then the same person telling other guys they needed to be assholes to get girls. And then others talking about how many people they screwed and messed around with and bragging about it! Then bragging about getting drunk and dressing slutty. These people were bragging about their sins!!!!

This grieved me so badly that I almost vomited. I had to leave the room and I didn't come back until they all had left. I told this 'friend' that situation was unacceptable to me and I couldn't be around that. He told me that it shouldn't hurt my stomach and that I would have to be around bad stuff sometimes.... this was a cop-out in my way of knowing things. I even had a girl ask me later on if I had a vagina. Uhh what..?! Because I was respectable and didn't like to talk about that sinful stuff? I'm not perfect by any means but this stuff should bother someone if they are trying to be godly!

Needless to say my relationship with these people has changed. I will be their friend but will never hang out around them again. Thank the Lord for showing me a way out! We can all do better then what we are doing now! You don't have to be perfect but be better!

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Prayer and praise request!

Daniel Higginbotham – My Emanuel – <http://www.myemanuel.com>

The “reviews” and “newly found ministries” sections have been combined in order to provide a new section to share prayer request from brothers and sisters, readers of The Good News of My Emanuel as well as to post praise request to glorify our Heavenly Father and give him praise for answering our prayers! Please contact us at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com with a prayer or praise request as well as on the Emanuel Connect feature at <http://www.myemanuel.com/emanuelconnect/index.php> under “Prayer request” or “Praise request”.

Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not to temptation but deliver us from evil, for the glory and the power of Your heavenly kingdom. Father we pray that you would lift up these prayer request and allow all who seek answers in prayer to receive You, for truly we know Father if we ask we shall receive. We ask that you would allow all those who read these words and prayers to pray for their brothers and sisters in Christ. Father we glorify and praise your name for these praise request and know that just as you answer our prayers we glorify your name even in the dark places! Praise you Father! In Jesus Christ beautiful name we pray, Amen.

Praise the Lord! Thank you for hearing our prayers always Lord. Our brother in Christ Bob is doing much better and is still in need of prayer but he is doing much better thanks to the prayer and the compassion of the Lord! Thank you Father!

Praise the Lord for our sister in Christ Gayle! She has overcome so many things through the Lord and continues to laugh in the face of evil as it tries to kill her, the Lord provides for her and brings her through! I know she must be tired so please pray the Lord gives her strength! Thank you for looking on your servants Father and healing and providing strength!

Praise the Lord for our sister Juanita who has began to recover quickly from her surgery! Praise you mighty Father for bringing her through her surgery alive and better for it! Praise you for healing her and allowing her a powerful testimony to your grace and power!

Praise the Lord for allowing me to receive baptism this past Sunday! Thank you father for allowing me to be baptized in the water and truly leave my old life behind because of your power and grace.

Please continue in prayer for My Emanuel and those who the Lord has commanded to lead this ministry. Father please protect us and bring us together, do not allow the evil one to scatter us.

Praise the Lord that almost every prayer request this week is also a praise request! Remember if you are need of prayer please contact us at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com with your request, you may remain totally anonymous.

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Reviews and newly found ministries

Daniel Higginbotham – My Emanuel – <http://www.myemanuel.com>

Are you a leader or member of a God fearing ministry that puts the Lord Jesus Christ first in all they do? Do you have a website or blog that you post Christian messages or provide any type of ministry? Contact us at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com to request that we add you to our bi-weekly newsletter.

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