**Sermon Notes**

**“His Name is Salvation”**

**Matthew 1:18-25**
This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**A Name Above All Names**

**In ancient cultures, one’s name was understood to be a reflection of one’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Jesus (*Yeshu’a*) means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What the Incarnation Shows Us About Ourselves:**

1. **We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ without God.**

Isaiah 53:6

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way

1. **We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

Romans 5:8

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:31

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**Living in Light of the Incarnation**

1. Reject \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Reject \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the single biggest “take-away” from Sunday’s message for you? How did the Holy Spirit challenge you through this message?

2. Do you know what your name means? Do you know why you were given that name? Given the significance of names in ancient cultures and the Bible, what is the significance of Revelation 2:17?

3. Many people find the idea of being labelled “lost” and “sinful” and “hopeless” without God both offensive and oppressive. For many this language seems overly negative. How would you respond to someone who dismissed these claims due to the fact that they were so negative and offensive?

4. The entire biblical story is a story of rescue. Where do you see evidence in our culture that we are captivated by this idea of needing and wanting to be rescued (hint: where does this “rescue” theme play out in books, movies, etc.—give examples).

5. What does Jesus say about the law in Matthew 5:17. Given this, do you think it is correct for Jeff to encourage us to “reject religion”? Why or why not?

6. In what areas of your life has pessimism and cynicism taken root? What are practical steps you could take to uproot these attitudes and replace them with gospel hope?