

**FIRST CHRISTMAS
Pastor Vernie Fletcher
December 21st, 2014**

**People in Pain
at Christmas**

Genesis 1:3 (NIV)

^[3] And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

**A theme in the Bible:
The Word of God
and the Light of God**

John 1:1-2 (NIV)

^[1] In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was **with God**, and the Word **was God**.

^[2] He was with God in the beginning.

Colossians 1:16 (NIV)

^[16] For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

John 1:3-5 (NIV)

^[3] Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

^[4] In him was life, and **that life was the light of men**.

^[5] The **light shines in the darkness**, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 1:14 (NIV)

^[14] **The Word** became **flesh** and made his dwelling **among us**. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**The Word is not something
for us to live by, but
someone who came to live **with us!****

Matthew 1:22-23 (NIV)

^[22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

^[23] "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**"--which means, "**God with us**."

**We want you Lord
to be our **Advocate****

John 14:16-17 (NIV)

^[16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Counselor** to be with you forever—

^[17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives **with you** and will be **in you**.

John 16:33 (NIV)

^[33] "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**.

In this world you will have **trouble**. But take heart! I have **overcome** the world."

**The problems of
the present**

**The Promise of
His presence**

**We have to lean in
not out!**