

The 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 4, 2016

“From heaven Above ~ The Gift of Love”

John 3:11-21

Christmas isn't about _____ things; however it is about _____.

Christmas is all about giving because God is the Great _____! On Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God gave us the gift of His _____.

God didn't give out of _____, He didn't give the least that He could get by with giving—He gave everything; He gave _____; and He gave out of love

Christmas began in God's _____ and it's all about God's great _____ for us shown most fully in the gift of Jesus.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that all who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

The first half of this verse is all about _____. The middle word—the 13th word is _____. And the last 12 words are all about _____.

Jesus came from heaven to earth to be the _____—the 13th word—between God and us—to show us _____ God really is, and to reveal the fullness of His love for us.

4 KINDS OF LOVE

eros = _____ love

phileo = _____ love

storge = _____ love

agape = _____ love

Agape love is a universal, _____ love, that transcends and serves regardless of the circumstances.

JOHN 3:16 AND GOD'S LOVE

#1. John 3:16 teaches us that God's love is _____. Many people, consciously or unconsciously, think that God is _____ at them.

so = *houtos* = an adverb of _____ =

God's love for us is _____; _____; lavish—no one will ever love us as much as God does.

“God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

Love is God's very _____—His _____. He created us to be the _____ of His love.

“Long before he laid down the earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of his love.” (Ephesians 1:4)

“May you be able to feel and understand how long, how wide, how deep and how high God's love really is and experience this love for yourself.” (Ephesians 3:18)

Paul tells us that God's love for us is _____. We are not just meant to _____ God's love—we are meant to feel and _____ it.

THE 4 DIMENSIONS OF GOD'S LOVE

- God's love is **long** enough to last _____.
- “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)
- God's love is **wide** enough to be _____. There is no place that we can go in life that God's love is not with us. We may not always _____ it—we may feel lost and alone; however, we're never _____

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?” (Psalm 139:7)

- God's love is deep enough to handle _____. There is no problem, pressure, stress, difficulty—nothing that we'll encounter in our life—that is _____ than God's love for

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38)

- God's love is high enough to overlook all our _____. God loves to _____.

“Come now, let us argue this out,” says the Lord. “No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

God's love is personal—it causes us to know _____ and Him to know us.

Do you fully understand God's personal love for you?

#2. John 3:16 teaches us that God's love is _____.

Loving and _____ go together—you _____ give without loving, but you _____ love without giving.

“He is the image of the invisible God.” (Colossians 1:15)

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

everything we’ve ever done wrong and everything we haven’t done yet, but are going to do—maybe when we leave here this morning—have been paid for by Jesus

“God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then in exchange, He poured God’s goodness into us.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“When Jesus served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world’s.” (1 John 2:2)

God loves so much that He _____ for us.

Are you aware of God’s sacrifice for you?

#3. John 3:16 teaches us that God’s love is _____.
God’s love for us comes with a _____ clause—a clause that includes _____.
No one is _____.

“The free gift of eternal salvation is offered to everyone.” (Titus 2:11)

Salvation is for _____—it doesn’t matter what your economic status is; your ethnic or _____ background; social position; or even religious background—Jesus died for _____.

“It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and you’re ready to do what he says, the door is open.” (Acts 10:35)

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

kurios =

It refers to someone’s supremacy and _____; a person who exercises absolute _____ rights; a person who has the power of ownership, decision, and _____.”

When we accept Jesus as Lord, we’re no longer in _____ of our life—that power and authority has been given to Him. We _____ and surrender all that we are and all that we have—our selves, souls, and bodies; our plans and priorities to Him.

“God says He will accept us and acquit us if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. We can all be saved in this same way by coming to Christ no matter who we are or what we’ve been like.” (Romans 3:22)

Believing isn’t just _____—it isn’t just saying, “I believe in Him.”
believe = *pistuo* =

Faith in Jesus is like an _____, a life jacket, or safety harness—it’s more than just _____ knowledge—it is a _____ thing. To believe Jesus is the Son of God is to throw ourselves on Him and _____ in Him fully.

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (Psalm 18:2)

Have you thrown yourself on Jesus?

Have you accepted God’s invitation and received His free gift?

#4. John 3:16 teaches us that God’s love is _____.
All God’s children are guaranteed _____ life. All we have to do is trust in Him, _____ and look forward, to His promise.

However, eternal life is about far more than just _____—it is 3 _____ and involves our:

“What a God we have! Because Jesus was raised from the dead we’ve been given a brand new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven and the future starts now!” (1 Peter 1:3-4)

When we invite Christ into our life and accept His salvation, 3 things happen:

- Our past is _____.
- We find _____ and strength for living this present life.
- We are given a home in heaven for eternity in the _____.

“Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you!” (2 Cor. 6:2)

How many of these dimensions are you living?

Has your past been forgiven or are you burdened with guilt?

Are you living with purpose and strength or just drifting through life?

Are you certain of your future home in eternity?