



Wells of Salvation Ministries

Sermon Outline 9

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“Christmas Is Love”

Scripture – Matthew 2:1-12

Text – John 3:16

Introduction: What does Christmas mean to you? Pretty lights on evergreens? Presents wrapped in colored paper and decorated with bright ribbons? Feasts and sweets? Liquor and good times? It can mean so many things – good and bad. One of the greatest meanings to me is memories – memories of home with all the family. I’ve been away for many years, and Dad isn’t with us anymore. I’m sure you have treasured memories of your own. These memories are close to the greatest meaning of Christmas, for they involve love – and Christmas is love!

I. Love Of God For Man

1. John 3:16
 - A. God loved and created man
 - B. God gave, when man misbehaved, sinned against Him
2. What are you giving your enemies for Christmas?
 - A. The one who cursed you
 - B. The guy who made fun of you
 - C. The fellow who insulted you
 - D. The man who ignored you
 - E. The person who stands for everything you loathe and detest
3. But think of God – and His love!
 - A. We have...
 - Cursed Him
 - Mocked Him
 - Insulted Him
 - Ignored Him
 - Done all kinds of things He hates
 - B. Yet...
 - He loved us
 - He gave His Son
 - He provided Life for us – eternal life!
 - C. While we were sinners – He was not only born as a Babe in Bethlehem for us – He died for us! (Romans 5:8)
 - D. Is this love?
 - E. Is this the true meaning of Christmas – and Easter – and the life lived between these two great events?
 - F. Jesus came to be one of us
 - So He could pay the death penalty for us
 - This is love!

II. Love Of Man For God

1. Mary was willing...
 - A. To endure the nine-month inconvenience of pregnancy
 - B. To suffer the pains of childbirth
2. She was ready...
 - A. To accept the stares, accusations, ridicule, mockery, whisperings of those who did not understand
 - B. To lose her fiancé, Joseph, if he wished to reject her
3. She was prepared to give birth to the Christ Child in a humble stable
 - A. With its chill
 - B. With its lack of conveniences
 - C. With its unsanitary conditions
4. She was glad...
 - A. To be the human instrument for the bringing of Salvation to all men

III. Love Of Man For Man

1. Joseph was unwilling to embarrass Mary by making a public issue of her condition
 - A. She could have been put to death
2. He listened to the angel's explanation – and believed it!
3. He accepted the responsibility for caring for Mary and her baby
 - A. Long trip to Bethlehem
 - B. Inconveniences of the journey
 - Mary's inability to travel rapidly
 - Lack of room in the inn
 - Humble shelter of the stable
 - C. Flight from Herod for the Child's safety
4. He was willing to let the spotlight fall on the Babe and His mother

Conclusion: Because God loved us first, we are given the potential to love Him in return, and as a result, we love our brothers and sisters in Christ. “God is love.” (1 John 4:8). And since God came down to us on that first Christmas – Christmas is love!