

The Promise of LOVE

God's amazing love was the driving force behind that first Christmas... which we celebrate each year...

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10

Yet being 'put right' with God is not forced upon us. This is only possible through entering into a personal relationship with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says...

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

But those of us who ignore or reject Him face an unthinkable eternity...

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already...

John 3:18

Christmas... a time for giving and receiving, and what better time to give ourselves to the One who gave His best for us. Then the Lord Jesus Christ, through the wonder of His love, will become the most precious gift we receive this Christmas.

Christmas

The Wonder of Love

Longing for Love

It's one of our most basic needs...

to give and to receive love. And at this time of year, family, friends and romantic attachments can feel so precious to us.

And yet Christmas can also be such a painful time for those reflecting upon a lost love... those of us who can only wonder how things might have been.

But then Christmas is, at its very heart, a love story... and an opportunity for us to be gripped by the greatest love of all...

...a love that will never let us go...



The Pursuit of LOVE

There's no doubt about it, we all need to love and be loved... often doing our best to win affection. Yet in all honesty we'd have to admit that we're not the people we'd like to be...

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

And although we may present a good 'front' to others we'll never deceive the One whose judgement matters most of all...

People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

And the consequences could not be more serious...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

Thankfully, God in His mercy reaches out to us with a love beyond all other...

The Gift of LOVE

The value of someone's Christmas gift can at times be a measure of what we mean to them... and the same principle applies to our Maker...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Motivated by pure love this was an act of sacrificial grace, perfectly designed to meet our greatest need...

...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...

1 Timothy 1:15

But although Christmas may have been the 'means', Easter was the 'purpose'. That's why we can't take the Cross out of Xmas...

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

Romans 5:8

In response to such tender, loving kindness we're called to turn away from all we know to be wrong and invite the risen Christ Jesus into our lives to become our Saviour and Lord.

The Power of LOVE

Sadly, our love for one another can often prove so fragile and uncertain. Yet in surrendering our lives to His control we're given a brand new start... with the capacity to live a new lifestyle...

...if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

With His Spirit working within us we no longer need to follow some self-improvement plan!

His power can transform us into the people He wants us to be.

The fruit of the Spirit is

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

...and makes us able to love as He does...

Love is patient, love is kind... it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5,7

The Cost of LOVE

Of course, every meaningful relationship is costly... because commitment always carries a price tag.

Yet in coming to know the Lord Jesus in real friendship, we won't feel forced into accepting the cost of being a true follower, we'll consider it a privilege...

You are my friends if you do what I command.

John 15:14

And as we accept this challenge, He also promises to be with us always...

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5

...offering His special help in the midst of our daily struggles...

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:5