

# THE CHRISTMAS SERIES 2012

THE CELEBRATION, ADORATION AND POWER OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD, THE CHRISTMAS STORY

**1 John 4:9**

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JHX334

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“BEHOLD THE LOVE OF GOD”**

*THE CELEBRATION, ADORATION AND POWER OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD, THE CHRISTMAS STORY*

**Part 4/5**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Salvation, Christmas, Faith, Hope, Love, Worship**

Introduction to the Text;

**1John 4:9**

**“State The Contextual Summation and Theme”**

**!!! Merry Christmas !!!**

**1John 4:9**

In this - the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

If God Were to Ever Show Off – I Don't Think It Would Be  
With lightning or earthquakes – Not Stars or Angels...

**Revealing His Love for Us**

There are many today who talk about the love of God,  
who are total strangers to the God of love.

If a Christian Really Knows God It is Through and In Love.

**John 15:12-13**

This is My commandment, that **you love one another AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. :13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

## BEHOLD THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS

### 4.) Behold the **Love** of God

**There is a Triune Definition to What God Is;**

**1<sup>st</sup>.** - **God is Spirit** (John 4:24). In the Greek language there is no **indefinite article** here, and to say "God is a spirit" is impossible, because it places Him in a class among others. Because He is "Spirit" He is ethereal, having no physical substance. Had God a physical body, He could not be Omnipresent, He would be limited to one place; but because He is Spirit - He fills heaven and earth.

**2<sup>nd</sup>.** - **God is Light** (1 John 1:5), which is the opposite of "darkness." In Scripture "darkness" represents sin, evil, death; and "light" for holiness, goodness, life. God is Light, meaning that He is the sum of all that is excellent.

**3<sup>rd</sup>.** - **God is Love** (1 John 4:8). It's not simply that God "loves," but that He is the very definition of Love itself. Love is not merely one of His attributes, but it His very nature. – His actually nature is Love and so God what flows out of Him is love.

**!!! Merry Christmas !!!**

**In the Words of Tina Turner;**

**“what's love got to do with it ?”**

**the answer to that is – Everything !**

**BEHOLD THE **LOVE** OF GOD**

**4a.) The love of God is - Extravagant**

# Extravagant

Excessive, Overabundant, Prodigal, Abounding

1 John 3:16a

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.

Luke 15:11-24

Then Jesus said: “A certain man had two sons. :12 And the younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. :13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. :14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. :15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. :16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. :17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! :18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, :19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” ’ :20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. :21 And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ :22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. :23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; :24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’  
And they began to be merry.

## The Lost Son / The Prodigal Father

And The Hebrew “*keezazah*” The Cutting Off

The community would break a large pot in front of him and yell, “*You are now cut off from your people!*” The community would then totally reject him.

So, why did the father run? He ran in order to get to his son *before* he entered the village. The father runs — and shames himself — in an effort to get to his son before the community gets to him,

**“The Deepest Things Cannot Be Spoken – But Acted”**

**God loves His people.**

(never has it been said that God loves angels or anyone else)

**God** loves all those who seek Him.

(love presupposes a relationship just as meaningful and complex as ours)

**God** loves those who obey Him.

(faithfulness is the reciprocal response to love)

**God** loves without merit

That is that He loves first without any prompting on our part.

**1 John 4:19**

We love Him because He first loved us.

**BEHOLD THE LOVE OF GOD**

**4b.) The love of God is - Everlasting**

**Everlasting**

**Boundless, Infinite, Immeasurable, Limitless**

**John 3:16-18**

For God so loved **the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whosoever** believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **:17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn **the world**, but that **the world** through Him might be saved. **:18** **He** who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he** who does not believe is condemned already, because **he** has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**The Old Testament Counterpart to John 3:16**

**Jer. 31:3-4**

The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. **:4** Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel!

BTW

There are those who say that God is done with Israel. Impossible. But because God's very nature is Love – His love for Israel is also the same love He loves us with.

## BEHOLD THE **LOVE** OF GOD

### 4c.) The love of God is - **Unconditional**

#### **Unconditional**

**Absolute, Unreserved, Unrestricted, Total**

The “brutal-beauty” of this doctrine is that God *loved us* before we had any knowledge *of Him* and before we *could have* loved Him.

#### **Deut. 7:7-8**

The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; **:8** but **BECAUSE** the LORD loves you,

Have you ever asked a 5 year old why they did this or that?  
**BECAUSE**

This **BECAUSE** is because of His sovereign love.

#### **Rom. 5:6-8**

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. **:7** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. **:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### **Eph. 2:4-5**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **:5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

## BEHOLD THE LOVE OF GOD

### 4d.) The love of God is - Pure

#### Pure

Without Contamination, Unpolluted, Untainted, Wholesome

Is. 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Psa. 89:34

I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.

## BEHOLD THE LOVE OF GOD

### 4e.) The love of God is - Abounding

#### Abounding

Voluminous, Plenteous, Fruitful, Manifold

1John 3:1 **ESV**

How great is the love the Father has **lavished** on us, that we should be called children of God!

*God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.*

~ **Augustine**

Psa. 86:15 **NIV**

But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, **abounding in love** and faithfulness.

## BEHOLD THE LOVE OF GOD

### 4f.) The love of God is - Personal

## Personal

Private, Particular, Intimate, Gentle

### Luke 2:6-14

:10 Then the angel said to them, *“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. :11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. :12 And this will be the sign to you:*

## Did Ya’ Notice This Year Reading The Bible

That Whenever Someone Encountered Jesus Something Happened.

Have you noticed that those who encounter Him always had a profoundly personal experience with Him?

### Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine (the primary meal) with him, and he with Me.

### Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as demanding as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame. :7 Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly worthless.

### Rom. 8:29-31

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. :30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. :31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

### Eph. 1:4-5

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, :5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

*Nothing About Christmas was a Natural Event.  
It was, is and will always will be a Supernatural Event.*

**It's Happening Everyday – Around The World –  
A Lost Soul Finds The Love of Their Life.**

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The  
Call** <<<<

***Come Forward for Prayer***

*End of Study*

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