

Advent of God's Love

Romans 5:6-11

(December 9, 2012)

- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

What has arrived to meet your greatest need?

1) God's love arrived to meet your greatest need 5:6-8

- Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 3:18

2) God's love arrived to deliver His enemies from wrath 5:9-10

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Hebrews 7:25

3) God's love arrived to cause us to rejoice 5:11

- John 1:12

God's love arrived to handle your greatest need! He wants you to mirror His love to others.

- Just as Jesus died for you, you have to decide what needs to die so you can love others. What needs to die in your life, so that you will act on behalf of others 1 John 4:7-8? Do you need to die to frustration with your children? Die to your loneliness that no one cares? Die to indifference toward others? Maybe you need to die to defending yourself against others. Maybe you need to die to the hurt caused by others. How many mothers have "taken it" over and over by their children and mothers still love them?
- God's love is an action. 1 John 4:9-10 God's love through you is an action. You can't say, "I love you" and not show it in a tangible way. Love is far more than an attitude or wishful thinking. How do you need to act toward others? Get to know, to serve, to disciple another for oneness for the body. Giving?
- Rejoice – that you can love because God first loved you 1 John 4:19. You can experience God's love through His power in loving, in forgiving and in giving. If we're not loving, it's because we're not filled with (controlled by) Him.

Message Based Discussion Questions

- 1) How do you see love demonstrated in everyday life?

Digging Deeper:

- 2) Why is a baby in such great need of love (1 Thess. 2:5-9)?
- 3) In what ways can God be trusted to take care of man's needs (cf. Ex. 16:16,18, 21; Matt. 6:8-34; Phil. 4:19)?
- 4) In what ways do you have need of other believers (1 Cor. 12:20-24)?

Applying the message to life:

- 5) What are several reasons it's difficult for us to love our enemies, or people we have a hard time getting along with, as God does (cf. 1 John 3:17)?
- 6) What are practical ways you can show love to family members that are hard to love? How will it mirror God's love?

Biblical Teaching of Justification

- 1) Justified means to be declared righteous. When related to man it means he is declared righteous either in his standing before God or in his actions after salvation (and in some cases as a comparative righteousness related to others). It does not mean "just as if I never sinned." In salvation justification, it acknowledges there was sin, but the condemnation was dealt with by Christ's work on the cross on your behalf and by faith acceptance to have a righteous standing before God.
- 2) Ways "Justified" is used in Scripture:
 - To declare oneself in good standing with God Job 32:2
 - To establish a comparative righteous standing of another because of personal wickedness Ezek 16:51,52
 - To demonstrate worthy by means of its fruit Matt. 11:19; Luke 7:35
 - To be shown righteous in personal actions Matt. 12:37
 - To declare God righteous Luke 7:29
 - Justification comes by faith in Christ, not works of the Law Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:20, 24, 28; 5:1, 9; Gal. 2:16,17; 3:11, 24
 - Those do what the law requires will be justified, i.e. they humbly accept a substitute payment for their sins Rom. 2:13
 - Justification is an act that God does for man, not man for God Rom. 8:30
 - Justification is completed by the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 6:11
 - It is used for those who seek to live out a righteous life by works (some would refer to this as experiential or practical righteousness) Gal. 5:4
 - Jesus was justified in the Spirit 1 Tim. 3:16
 - Positional Justification is all God's grace Titus 3:7
 - Justification is demonstrated practically after salvation by good works Jam. 2:21, 24, 25