

ADVENT–LOVE

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—December 24th, 2023

1 John 4:10

(ESV)

[10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

WHAT IS ADVENT?

- 'advent' = coming or arrival
- Advent is a season of waiting.
- As we remember the first coming of Christ, we remember he is coming again.
- Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Christ
- Today we turn to the word LOVE.

INTRODUCTION

The value of love is rooted in actions rather than mere words.

1 John 3:18–[18] *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

1 John 5:13–[13] *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Our love for God is a result of God's love for us; and God's love for us is made most clear in the giving of his Son.

GOD'S LOVE IS PROACTIVE

God in his nature is love.

1 John 4:7–[7] *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

In our nature we do not love God.

1 John 5:21–[21] *Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

God himself breaks us from our idolatry of self.

God's love transforms our love; it is through experiencing His love that we learn to love Him in return.

1 John 4:19–[19] *We love because he first loved us.*

2 Corinthians 1:3–4–[3] *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, [4] who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

GOD'S LOVE IS PROPITIATORY

God demonstrates his love for us by giving us his Son, Jesus.

Notice how often love is associated with giving in the Bible.

- **John 3:16–[16]** *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
- **1 Corinthians 13:3–[3]** *If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*
- **2 Corinthians 9:7–[7]** *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- **Ephesians 5:2–[2]** *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
- **1 John 3:16–[16]** *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*

God is a giver par excellence.

James 1:17–[17] *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Romans 8:32–[32] *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

Propitiation = ‘*hilasmos*’ / “a sacrifice that appeases the anger of God.”

God has given men and women an opportunity to be forgiven from their sin by trusting in a propitiatory sacrifice.

Revelation 5:9–10

*“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
[10] and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”*