

Theme: The Mission of Christmas

Title: The Mission of Christmas Demonstrates Love – John 1:1-18

Aim: To declare the love of God demonstrated by Christ

Today we complete the year-long series on The Church on Mission,” concluding as we have w/the special Advent emphasis of “The Mission of Christmas.” As we do each year, we’ve lit the Advent Candles each week w/a specific emphasis: Hope, Peace, Joy & Love. The Mission of Christmas – what God the Father had planned & Christ came to do – brings hope to a hopeless world; gives peace to a restless world, all those who believe; produces joy in all who receive the good news; & demonstrates love – God’s love. Today we will focus our attention briefly on that last point: the mission of Christmas demonstrates love. We know that love must be demonstrated & not just spoken, tho it must be spoken as well. Love is something you do. Certainly, that is true w/the mission of Christmas. What is the mission of Christmas? It’s simply the fulfillment of God’s plan of redemption, to reconcile to Himself a people of His own. The mission of Christmas is salvation for all who believe in Christ as Savior/Lord. John 1:1-18 [READ] I) **The Mission of Christmas was designed by love.** “In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was w/God, & the Word was God.” From before time, God set forth His plan of redemption, which would of necessity require that God become man in order that He might redeem man. The 1st announcement of that plan was Genesis 3:15, w/the promise that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent – Satan would be defeated by the promised Messiah. Jesus was the seed of the woman – the virgin Mary - & He came to crush the enemy Satan & redeem those who would believe in Him. The Word became flesh & dwelt among us – became like us – to reveal the Father to us & break the curse of sin on our behalf. The prophets all spoke of Him – the

consolation of Israel, the hope of the ages. And when Jesus was born, the work of redemption was set in motion, to follow the blueprint the Father designed. Jesus was “Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be. He is Alpha & Omega” – God of God, the beginning of the plan of the Father & the end – “He the source, the ending He, of the things that are, that have been, & that future years shall see, evermore & evermore.” God the Son, who created all things, came to make known the Father to us. What a perfect plan, a delightful design; nothing else would do. II) **The Mission of Christmas was delivered w/love.** *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him”* (John 3:16-17). Not all are saved from the wrath we deserve, but only those who receive Him by faith as Savior/Lord. *“He came to His own, & His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...”* (John 1:11-12). And oh, *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; & so we are”* in Christ (I John 3:1). We might think of the star of Bethlehem being the brilliant glow of the love of God being poured out thru Christ. And the announcement of the angel, accompanied by the angel choir was the joyous declaration that God has loved us to the point that He would not spare His own Son, but freely gave Him up for us. Redemption is possible, by the Father’s design & the delivery of the Son as Savior. So, III) **The Mission of Christmas Clearly Demonstrates love.** How much clearer can it be? Paul wrote in Romans 5:8 that *“God shows (demonstrates) His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* This takes us from the manger to Mt. Calvary, from the cradle to the cross. God is love & the way we know His love? I John 4:9-10 – *“In this the love of God was*

made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us & sent His Son to be the propitiation

(satisfactory payment) ***for our sins.***” We rightly celebrate the birth of Christ & worship Him. But if the birth of the Christ-child was all we had to celebrate, we would be hopelessly lost. Jesus didn’t just come to be born, take on flesh. His mission on earth was not completed at His birth. He was born to live a perfect, sinless life as a man so that His righteousness would count for us who believe in Him. He was born to die for us, to pay for our sins. He was born to triumph over death & the grave, born to be Lord & King. I remind you that God’s mission & the Church’s mission is the reconciliation of the lost, brought into the family & kingdom of God thru faith in Christ. And we must understand that our mission as the Church is not complete until we introduce others not just to the baby in the manger, but to the Savior, to our King Jesus! I purposefully kept this message short today in order that you may hear a brief message from one S.M. Lockridge about Jesus as King. His full name (not kidding) was Shadrach Meshach Lockridge & he was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego, CA for 40 years & a well known & sought after speaker. He died in 2000 at the age of 87. I don’t believe anyone has expressed it better than Pastor Lockridge. Apologize to those on live stream because you won’t be able to see it. We’ll try to post the words on our FB page. [Video clip]

Do you know King Jesus? Most important question of your life/eternity. Let us help you know Him, who alone gives life. And Church, let us ever be on mission w/God.