

Heart for the Holidays – A Loving Heart

December 10-11, 2022

John 3:16:17 (NKJV) – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”.

Ephesians 2:18-20 (NIV) - “For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone”.

1 John 4:19-20 (NIV) – “We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen”.

“Many of us have elected to adjust our consciences rather than our lives. Our powers of rationalization are unlimited. They allow us to live in luxury and indifference while others, whom we could help if we chose to, starve and go to hell” – **Randy Alcorn, *Eternal Perspective Ministries***

1 John 3:16-18 (NIV) – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth”.

“**love**” = Greek *agapo* - “to love, to be full of good will and exhibit the same; to have a preference for, regard the welfare of”; completely unconditional, selfless, self-sacrificing, only possible through Jesus

John 13:34-35 (NIV) – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”.

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John 3:5-6 (NIV) – Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit”.

John 3:10-13 (NIV) – “You are Israel’s teacher”, said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man”.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV) – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws”.

Ezekiel 36:25 (NIV) – “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols”.

Matthew 1:18-19 (NIV) – “This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly”.

“Her situation was the most distressing and humiliating that can be conceived. Nothing but the fullest consciousness of her own integrity, and the strongest confidence in God, could have supported her in such trying circumstances, where her reputation, her honor, and her life were at stake”
– *Adam Clarke*

Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV) – “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins”.

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“The Lord gives guidance to the thoughtful, not to the unthinking” –
Matthew Henry

“Is that not instructive for every one of us to be like our heavenly Father, and to be like Jesus’ earthly father? Righteous and kind. Concerned for God’s law. Concerned for God’s people” – **J. Ligon Duncan**

Romans 13:8 (NIV) – “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law”.