Dec 23rd 2007: Christmas Proves the Love of God For Us: 1 John 4:7-21

On the first Sun………I began this series…… of pre-Christmas messages
by asking you the question ➔ **What does Christmas prove about God**
        Straight after………David Cowell told me that the immediate response……John 3:16

We have seen that Christmas proves that God is……..A Promise keeping God……
            And that there is nothing too hard for Him

But above both those truths………..**CHRISTMAS proves just how much God loves us.**

John writes in 1 John 4:9
        "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son
        into the world that we might live through Him."

The truly amazing thing is that we gave God no encouragement to love us….in any way
Let alone that way

The sins that pollute every human…..Made us God's enemies…..WHILE
by nature we are so self centred……that we demand God be there for us in our need
        yet disregard His very existence when things are going our way.

The stories that surround the birth of Jesus reveal….that the response to His birth was mainly at best
Rather confused and low key……..**And at worst**…….down right hostile in the case of Herod

Yet such did not surprise the Father
He knew our reaction…..long before He sent His Son
        And He also knew that cruelty of Herod was just the beginning….in a battle…..take…to the cross

The birth of Jesus into the world shows us how much God loves us
But the death of God the Son…….goes on to demonstrates the extent of God love……

Paul says this in Romans 5:8
"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The word translated demonstrates…….means…….to place in a striking point of view

- **When God** entered our world as a baby….He showed us that he loves us
- **When He died** upon the cross……He placed His love in a striking point of view

    Whenever you are tempted to doubt the love God has for you……Just look to the cross…..

And the reason that God loves us to such a degree…..says John the Apostle….is because He is Love
Love is His very nature…………HE cannot but love you

(From p 430….. The parable about the holy man……..)

You may have been……..or perhaps you know of someone…….whose been giving God a hard time
Rebelling against God's Love……..**But God** will never change His love for you….THAT's His Nature

* *This amazing love that He has for us*……..also lays on us a responsibility to love in return
                To love God……………..
But also to love others with the same intensity……and depth of love…..with which He has first loved

Indeed John says a lot about this….in the passage we read:

*V11 "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever
 seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us"*

People see God who is Love…..When they see us loving others….
(hamper)

Indeed v20 says *"If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who
does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has
given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother."*

* **The words are unequivical**…….But perhaps we think that God expects too much
That we just don't have the patience…..the forgiving spirit……the perseverance…To love like that

Well thankfully God is one step ahead of us: In Romans 5:5 we read
"God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."

He has not only poured His love for us into our hearts
A love which grows every time we think about the Christmas and Easter stories

        But by His Spirit He has made it possible…..For us to draw upon this source of love within
                Which is from God Himself………and with it bless the lives of others…..even…..

(From number 398 750 illustrations: "There is a natural, logical kind of loving….."Rosemary's rag doll)