
Some thoughts to take with you *A Time for Love*

Love at first is not feeling. Love first can be expressed as giving. That is at the core of love. If one gives, the feeling of love will follow. To love we must give of ourselves, of our time, of our substance, of whatever it takes to show love; for giving is fundamental to the biblical idea of love.

Jay E. Adams

The greatest sorrow and burden you can lay upon the Father, the greatest unkindness you can do to Him is not to believe that He loves you.

John Owen

While God is not pleased with my sin and may discipline me in order to turn me from destructive paths and practices, His love for me does not diminish in any degree. He gave Himself for my sins in their entirety, so that I might have His love in its entirety.... Accepting this reality of God's unchanging regard is necessary for us to make progress in the Christian life.

Bryan Chapell

Is it a small thing in your eyes to be loved by God - to be the son, the spouse, the love, the delight of the King of glory? Christian, believe this, and think about it: you will be eternally embraced in the arms of the love which was from everlasting, and will extend to everlasting - of the love which brought the Son of God's love from heaven to earth, from earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to glory - that love which was weary, hungry, tempted, scorned, scourged, buffeted, spat upon, crucified, pierced - which fasted, prayed, taught, healed, wept, sweated, bled, died. That love will eternally embrace you.

Richard Baxter

We think it safer and more effective to look to other people to relieve our emptiness. In some cases, when love is sweet, we might even feel that we have found it. Sadly, this feeling misleads us. It reinforces our sinful idea that people might be the answer to our need, so we pursue them with an obsession. The love that we desire, however, can only be found in the living God.

Edward T. Welch

In Himself, God is love; through Him, love is manifested, and by Him, love is defined.

Burk Parsons

A Time For Love

Selected Scriptures

Introduction: The *hope* of the Old Testament believers was grounded in their experience of the unchanging love of God. Micah reminded his listeners that their God "*delights in unchanging love.*" Today we explore the love of God which He lavished on our broken world, beginning with the birth of Jesus in a cave outside of Bethlehem.

Love Declared

John 3:16

The love of God
The gift of God

Love Displayed

Ephesians 1:4-6; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:1

In a cave outside Bethlehem
On a hill outside Jerusalem
In a house in Spokane, Washington

Love Described

Micah 7:18; Romans 8:35-39

Consistently ours
Eternally ours

Where do you run?

The Second Sunday of Advent

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Kids Notes

A Time for Love

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *The reason God sent His Son to be born in Bethlehem was:*

- A. He wanted His Son to experience earth.
- B. He wanted His Son to conquer Satan.
- C. He loved His creation and wanted to rescue it.
- D. all of the above.

2. *The true evidence of love is:*

- A. sacrificial action.
- B. lots of expensive presents.
- C. pretty flowers.
- D. all of the above.

3. *At Christmas we celebrate:*

- A. God's amazing love for mankind.
- B. God's gift of the Savior.
- C. God's gift of forgiveness of sins.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: *How does the love you share as a family illustrate the love of God for His children?*

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

CHRISTMAS _____	TOTAL: _____
LOVE _____	_____
JESUS _____	_____
BETHLEHEM _____	_____
ETERNAL _____	_____
FAITHFULNESS _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

CHRISTMAS LOVE JESUS CHRIST GOD FAITH HOPE LIVING SONG
 BETHLEHEM ETERNAL FAITHFULNESS BIRTH SON MANGER COW
 CRADLE CANDLE JERUSALEM HILL CROSS CALVARY SHOW SING
 CAROLS LIGHTS TREE PRESENTS CANDY COOKIES HAPPINESS

S P E L L C F S X S F S G S Y M X
 Y L L P R A E B U D S O C T R C O
 A I O A O I N S E E D C M H A T E
 H X D R K H E R N T A P A G V R F
 Z L S O A J T L E N H P J I L E J
 E V O L V C U K D T P L D L A E E
 W C N O S F P Y Q I E Z E W C G R
 F A I T H E L D N A C V S H O W U
 C L S T N E S E R P R O B M E I S
 Q B I Z E M S C H R I S T A G M A
 X A I V J S Y U D M C G U N N N L
 F C H R I S T M A S R I Y G O J E
 Z K J W T N I I S Q O A Y E S N M
 R S P R O H G N D U S Y T R N X E
 Y R N J K C K I G L S A I J B J E