**R785\_Rumination for Feb. 16, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Divine Love** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *for God is love.* I Jn. 4:8

The **T**hots:

Intro. Two days ago (Feb. 14) many in the world celebrated Valentine’s Day!

1. **WHAT IS VALENTINE’S DAY AND HOW DID IT START?**

See **Reflections for the Week** on the next page

Contrast this with Divine Love below.

1. **What is Divine Love and How did it start?**
2. It **S**tarted from before the Foundation of the World.
3. God Loved the **S**on - *Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.* Jn. 17:24
4. God Loved the **S**inner like me - Eph. 1:4  
   *According as He hath chosen us in Him* [Jesus] *before the foundation of the world,*

*that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:*

1. It was the Day when God **S**howed it by **S**ending His **S**on to **P**ay the **P**enalty of my **S**in. I Pet. 1:20, NKJV

*Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world…manifest in these last times for you…*

1. *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son*

*into the world, that we might live through Him.* I Jn. 4:9

1. *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.* Jn. 3:16, NKJV

1. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Rom. 6:23

1. **How was Divine Love Demonstrated?** God demonstrated His own love toward us…
2. ***W****hile we were still* ***S****inners, Christ died for us.* Rom. 5:8, NKJV
3. ***W****hen we were yet without* ***S****trength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.* Rom. 5:6
4. ***W****hen we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his* ***S****on,*

*much more, being reconciled, we shall be* ***S****aved by His life.* Rom. 5:10

1. **the Display of Divine Love.**
2. What Divine Love Is – **G**od is Love but Love is not **G**od! I Jn. 4:8

*He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

1. Divine Love is the **G**reatest –

*Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love*. I Cor. 13:13, NKJV

1. Love’s **A**ttributes and **A**cts to be displayed in the **G**odly.I Cor. 13:4-8, NKJV

*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;*

*does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;*

*does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;*

*bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

***Love never fails.***

*.*

1. Divine Love in **A**ction Jn. 21:15-17
2. Peter **R**egretted that He Denied Jesus Thrice and had Forsaken Him. Lk. 22:61, 62

*And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord,*

*how He had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice.*

*And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.*

1. Peter, was **S**pecially **S**ingled out to be **R**emembered after Jesus’ **R**esurrection - Mk. 16:7

*Tell His disciples* ***and Peter*** *that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him…*

1. Later, Jesus **R**estored Peter and Gave Him back His Confidence – the Act of Divine Love! Jn. 21:15-17

*Jesus saith to Simon Peter…the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?*

*Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me?*

*And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee.*

*Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep.*

1. Divine Love had **S**ought him and brought him back to His Flock to be an Elder,

the **S**hepherd of the His **S**heep! Peter had been **R**estored. I Pet. 5:1

*The elders…among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ:*

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav’n to earth come down;*

*Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown!*

*Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;*

*Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.* Charles Wesley

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R.785**

1. **WHAT IS VALENTINE’S DAY AND HOW DID IT START?** 
   1. Valentine's Day, or St Valentine's Day, is celebrated every year on 14 February.
   2. It's the day when people show their affection for another person or people by sending cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love.
   3. Who was St Valentine?

The day gets its name from a famous saint, but there are several stories of who he was.

The popular belief about St Valentine is that he was a priest from Rome in the third century AD.

Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers.

Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret.

When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death.

There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine".

The above is an extract referring to the origin of Valentine’s Day taken from

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/16945378>]

However, no one can vouch for its truth as there are other sources with different stories to tell. Whatever it is, it cannot be compared with Divine Love in spite of the much hype of Love that is associated with it. On this day, many couples voice out their love to their beloved while others express it in other ways to win the hearts of their loved ones. Whatever the sincerity of that love, none can compare it with the Divine Love that God manifested when He sent His only begotten Son to die for lost Sinners to Save them from the penalty of their Sin and to give them eternal life – **this, is Divine Love!**

**See the Difference:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Valentines’ Love**  (See above) | **Divine Love**  (Refer to the Rumination Notes on Page 1) |
| It started one day in history – 14 February\_ ? | It started *before the Foundation of the World*. |
| It's the day when people show their affection for another person or people … | It was when God manifested His love for the whole world… |
| By sending cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love. | By Sending His only Begotten Son into the world for them to respond to His Love. |
| The day gets its name from a famous saint, but there are several stories of who he was. | Divine Love gets its name from the fact that GOD IS LOVE! |
| The popular belief about St Valentine is that he was a priest from Rome in the third century AD. | God is LOVE and He sent His Son, JESUS to manifest His Love. *His Name shall be called Jesus for He shalt save His people from their sins.* |
| Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death | All have sinned against God and the wages of sin is death, but *the Son of God, Who loved me…gave Himself for me – He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness.* |
| There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine". | God so loved the World that He sent His only begotten Son to die for Sinners.  Jesus so loved me that He gave Himself for me and died in my place *–* ***the Just for the unjust!*** |
| On Valentine’s Day, which Love did you know? –  Valentine’s Love or Divine Love? **REFLECT.** | |

**2. Valentine’s Love in no way can be compared to Divine Love.**

God’s Love is for ALL – be they who sin against Him, who cannot save themselves,

who are His enemies, who reject Him, and a thousand and one other things they deem fit to “throw” at Him, yet God would forgive them and receive them if only they would repent, believe in His Son and receive His Love – *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:* Jn. 1:12, NKJV.

Do you believe Him? **REFLECT**

**Things To Ponder:** *Divine* ***L****ove or Valentine’s* ***L****ove? Choose one to* ***L****ive by!*