**R942 Rumination for Feb. 12, 2023 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **God is Love** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.* ***God is love****;* I Jn. 4:16

The **T**hots:

Intro.: In two days’ time, Valentine’s Day (the world’s idea of Love) will be celebrated by many.

 Sadly, for many the day will just be a **S**entimental, **S**ocial or even **S**exual event. **S**oon it will pass away.

 They know not that indeed God is Love and True Love is of God. To Love one must know God.

 On a day, when Love is Prominent, let us remind ourselves that…

1. **God is Love and…**
2. God loves the World
3. *God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him*

*may not perish but may have eternal life.*  Jn. 3:16, NRSV

1. *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His only Son into the world*

*so that we might live through Him.* I Jn. 4:9, NRSV

1. God loves all the people of the world – be they Jews, Gentiles (non-Jews) or the Church (Jews and Gentiles in Christ) I Cor. 10:32

*Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

* *See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when He is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.* I Jn. 3:1-2, NRSV
1. God loves Israel – the Jews.
2. The Queen of **S**heba **C**omplimented King **S**olomon: II Chr. 9:8, NRSV

*Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on His throne as king for the LORD your God. Because your God loved Israel and would establish them forever, he has made you king over them, that you may execute justice and righteousness.*

1. God Loved Israel because He **S**overeignly **C**hose To:

*The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers… Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations…* Deut. 7:7-11

* To this very day, God still loves Israel. Paul could say: Rom. 11:1

*I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite,*

*of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

1. God Loves Gentiles – the rest who are not Jews, like You and Me, though we are Sinners.
2. *God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.* Rom. 5:8. NRSV
3. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* Rom. 3:23
4. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*. Rom. 6:23
* Paul says: *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:*

*and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God,*

*who loved me, and gave Himself for me*. Gal. 2:20

1. God loves the Church – Gentiles and Jews who believe in Jesus, God’s Son. Eph. 5:25
2. *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.*
*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
3. *There is neither Jew nor Greek* [Gentile], *there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female;*

 *for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* Gal. 3:27, 28, NKJV

* All who **B**elieve in Jesus are in the one Body of Christ – Jews or Gentiles alike. I Cor. 12:12-13

 *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many,*

 *are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be ews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

1. **If we are of God then we must Love.**
2. *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us:*

*and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.* I Jn. 3:16

1. *…we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.* I Jn. 5:2
2. *This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.* Jn. 15:12
3. *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.* I Jn. 4:8
4. *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother*

*whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?* I Jn. 4:20

*Come, let us all unite to sing: God is love!*

*Let Heav’n and earth their praises bring, God is love!*

*Let every soul from sin awake, Let every heart sweet music make,*

*And sing with us for Jesus’ sake: God is love!*

*Refrain: God is love! God is love! Come let us all unite to sing that God is love.* Millennial Praises

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 942**

* 1. On 14th February, many will be celebrating Valentine’s Day. How do most people celebrate the day? From a Google Search, we find…

*Americans celebrate Valentine's Day each year on February* *14th by sending cards or letters, giving gifts such as chocolate or flowers,* *and having meals in restaurants.* *Many adults see Valentine's Day as an occasion to offer expensive gifts such as jewelry to their sweetheart.*

Not only Americans, but others also celebrate the day with gifts. **Valentine Love** is lovely on the outside, temporal in time, transient under certain circumstances and conditions, beautiful and impressive in appearance in certain cases, and even can be precious in material value but certainly none of it is eternal. And no one can take it with him or her when the time comes for the person to leave this world.

Let us reexamine the above summary of what Americans do with Valentine Gifts and contrast it with what God gives with His Divine Love:

 The world sends …*cards or letters –*

 God also sends His Divine Love Card to us all. as follows: John 3:16**,** NRSV
*God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

 *…giving gifts such as chocolate or flowers,*

God also Gives us Gifts: His Greatest Gift is the Gift of His Son, Jesus Christ:

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* I Jn. 4:10, NKJV

 … *and having meals in restaurants.*

Jesus too invites us: *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.* Jn. 6:35

… *many adults see Valentine's Day as an occasion to offer expensive gifts such as jewelry to their sweetheart.*

God likens His valuable Gift to you from the “sale” of all He had, i.e. the Sacrifice of His only precious Son, in order to purchase you and give you this eternal life that will never fade away and for you to enjoy eternally:

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;*

*on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

 Mt. 13:45-46, NRSV

On Valentine’s Day, the best Valentine Love gift you can accept is to accept God’s Divine Love Gift of eternal life for you. **REFLECT**.

1. Now **C**onsider what Divine Love actually is and seek to live by it:
2. The **C**onsequence of Divine Love: I Jn. 4:16

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.*

*God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

1. The **C**harter of Divine Love: I Cor. 13:4-8, NRSV

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.*

*It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;*

*It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.*

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

*Love never ends.*

On Valentine’s Day, do spend some time to reflect on the Divine Love of God and Christ and consider your commitment to it. **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:** *Valentine Love Selects to Love; Divine Love Elects All and Any to Love.*