Love Unending! -- Christ is Born **Philippians 1:6-11**

Introduction: The Advent, fulfillment of long foretold promises. Good News means **HOPE** for beleaguered humanity as God comes to dwell amongst us. It means God's plan of **PEACE** which transforms enmity from inside out. It brings unparalleled **JOY** God is for me, who can be against? Good news brings **LOVE** of divine nature, no conditions, no limits. This is God's gift of good news we receive in Advent – Christ our Savior born to reign in us!

I. This is love of divine nature, which no man can generate or conceive.

Luke 1: 76-79 tender mercy, affections of compassion. It is other-focused he brings the Dayspring, Sunrise to fallen, banished us.

Isaiah 60:1-3 His agape love brings us light of the glory of God

Malachi 4:2 The sun of righteousness with healing in its rays—salvation & renewal are the product of this love which brought us His Son.

II. This love is Christ's love and is given to us without limit.

Philippians 1:6-11

Agape love – unique, given to us not natural. Our new love acts as a response—it was given to us, so by nature cannot be held, ungiven.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 His love in us never runs dry, is amazing character

Colossians 3:14 we are chosen by God to put on love for cont'd. unity

Matthew 13:44-46 values Him, gives up all to enjoy Him

1 John 4:10-11 it sets us up to purposefully love others

III. This love by nature will constantly grow, not be static.

Philippians 1:9 Abounding love, flowing over the edges. A word picture of rich giving.

v. 9 Love in real knowledge – firm grasp of spiritual principles of life

v. 9 Love in depth of insight – makes us dynamic thinkers, we cannot remain static, fixed on our own existence. His love is not abstract, it's practical.

The new and better kingdom has ***agape*** at the center, well supply for us

Application: We are told in v. 11 that our new, non-stop, growing and abounding **love** fills us with the fruits of righteousness. We become the spectacle of transformation to the world, and to fellow blvrs. which reflects back to God His glory and praiseworthiness. Let's be practicing this agape love daily. Meditate on the above passages which keep it fresh for us. Then go out and do it—step past your comfort and own ability and love on others. See them as God does, ask ?s, seek ways to pray, get past their exterior! Use this loving prayer of Paul as a model to pray for & love others.

Do you have this *agape* love? You must come to Christ empty handed!

Philippians 4:6-11 ESV

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.