

CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

4th Week of Advent – Waiting on the Gift of Love

December 21, 2020

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Meditation:

As we close in on Christmas, we will focus on this week's theme of the Gift of Love we receive. Of all the texts in the Bible on love, one of the most descriptive is Paul's description of love in 1 Corinthians 13. Take a moment and read the passage. Today, let's take time to ponder how these descriptions reflect God's love to us through Jesus. Consider how patient and kind God is towards us in that he sent Jesus to us while we were sinners and completely unworthy.

Love is not jealous, boastful, proud or rude. Now God does say he is a jealous God for over his creation, He is not jealous of us, but over us. When you think of boastful and proud, our human understanding of these practices can lead to arrogance and a lack of humility. In the case of God, God is holy, completely other, and does not ever have to prove himself. God reminds us of what he has done for us, not because he is boasting but because we are forgetful.

Love does not demand its own way, is irritable, or keeps a record of wrongs. When God "commands" we follow the given order, it is because God created the order of things and knows how it works best for our good. While he commands us to obey, we are given free will to choose. That is the difference between command and demand. God does not have good days or bad days so that if we catch him on a bad day, he will be irritated. And through the new covenant in Jesus, God forgives and does not remember our sins any longer when we repent.

Love does not rejoice over injustice but rather rejoices when truth wins out. Jesus is the truth and Jesus has won. This is true rejoicing in love.

The last verse is a wonderful summary description of love of God through Jesus; Love never gives up, loses faith, but remains hope-filled and endures.

After reading this meditation, how have you experienced God's love today?

How can you practice loving this way today? Whom can you practice with?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for sending us Jesus and demonstrating love to us. May we follow your example. Amen.