

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

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

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

December 22, 2020

Text: John 3:16-18

Meditation:

Today's look at love involves one of the most quoted texts of the New Testament. We all know these opening words, "For God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten son..." We have heard its instructions that those who believe will not perish but have everlasting life. We know and hold this truth near and dear to our heart. We understand the love a Father for his son and for his creation in this text.

Verse 17 shows God's love as well. Jesus has not come to judge (discipline, shame, condemn) but rather Jesus comes to save us. Now that too is a loving act. But there is one more verse to look at today and it is not as well known. It is verse 18.

"There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son."

You see, without belief, you are already judged. The world is already judged by God and the result will not be pretty. It leaves the world broken, hurting, lost, and at enmity with God.

Out of love and pity for the state we are in, God sends his son to save us. That is what Christmas is about – God fixing what we cannot by sending his son, Emmanuel, God with us to earth.

Knowing that your unbelieving friends have already been judged by God, what kind of urgency does that stir in you?

What is one loving act you can do that points to God's love for them in Jesus? Do it today!

Prayer:

Lord, we forget that so many live in your judgment and not in loving grace. Please stir in our hearts the urgency and love for these lost souls and move us to act as you would have us do. In Jesus precious name we pray. Amen.