



A Minute with Pastor December 2014

December 7, 2014

It appears in all shapes and sizes. For some, it's a feeling – a very strong feeling. For others, it's something that took place at first sight. Still for others, it's what you fall into and thus out of. And for many more, it speaks a language all its own, either through acts of kindness, shows of affection, words of admiration, or times of togetherness.

It's love and it's the spice of life. It can be expressed toward things (e.g. dessert, cars, vacations, pets) and people (e.g. best friends, siblings, spouses). But the greatest aim of our love should be toward the One who first showered His love our direction: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Indeed, the supreme example of love occurs here: "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). Considering that Christ died for us while we were enemies of the cross, how much the greater is such love!

He left the splendor of heaven to embrace the brokenness of earth; laid aside the exercise of His divinity to take up the limitations of His humanity; and took upon His sinless perfection the vileness of man's imperfections. What great love – a love of sacrifice, selflessness, and shame. This He did for you!

December 21, 2014

They arrive predominately on two days during the year. Some are personally delivered and others are "postally" delivered. They remind us that others remembered and thought enough to do something. The cost ranges from economical to extravagant and the covering from plain to pricy.

It's a present and who doesn't like to get one – especially on his or her birthday and for Christmas. Ironically, the One we celebrate on Christmas is the One who was born on Christmas! He left the wrappings of splendor and glory to take upon the entrapping of disbelief and scorn. What's even more astounding, He came to die.

We receive a plethora of gifts on our birthday and Christmas: some we return and some we regret; some we appreciate and some that depreciate; some we need and some we deed to others. But soon, many gifts lose their life or their affection or their importance or their position as we move on to the next gift-receiving event and another new influx of presents.

When it comes to the Gift of Christmas – the Babe born in a manger – there is no equal. He stands alone for He came alone to offer up Himself on a cross for your sins. He is the Gift of gifts, but is He Lord of your life? Have you received this Gift?