

Sunday, December 7, 2014

## 2ND SUNDAY OF Advent

The second candle lit in the Advent Wreath represents the pure love of God that He shares with us.

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. **1 John 4:7-12***

In this season of Advent, our eyes are fixed on the manger in Bethlehem. Two thousand years later, as we prepare our hearts for the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, we are faced with the Truth that God wants us to seek Him every day to guide our lives in love (1 John 4:11) as we identify ourselves with His precious Son. As we look to the baby in the manger who was sent by God Himself to save us, we should also look at ourselves, pondering the wonder of God's love for us, and asking ourselves what this birth means to each one of us personally. Having accepted Christ's atoning sacrifice as a gift of grace to us, sufficient in itself for our salvation, we should be awed by the Truth that by believing in His name, we are given the right to become children of God (John 1:12), actually born of God Himself, the maker of heaven and earth! Have you ever pondered what this really means as you live out your life in Him? God came so that through Him (1 John 4:9) we might live our lives as an expression of love for Him and love for one another. In this way, His love is made complete in us (1John 4:12). This is Truth that compels us to recognize opportunities to glorify Him every day of our lives.

Are you recognizing opportunities to live out His love every day? Are you setting time aside every day to love God by reading His word, praying, and seeking His will? Are you seeking to love your neighbor as yourself so that the world might know that God is alive and well more than 2,000 years after His birth in a humble manger in Bethlehem?

*Our Father in heaven, as we look to the manger, please help us to recognize and live out the Truth of Your Word made flesh. Help us to live our lives in such a way that Your love is made complete in us, and through us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, and for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we boldly pray. Amen.*

**Sheryl Kittrell**

(Submitted in 2008)