12/21/14

***Recap of 12/14/14 (1 Peter 1:22-25):***

*1. One of the obligations of the Christian life is to love other believers.*

*-this love is agape love, “a self-sacrificing desire to meet the needs of others that finds expression in concrete acts.”*

*-this love is commanded, thus it is not automatic, it is uniquely a love of the will not, not just feelings*

*-this love is expressed in a “Philadelphia” (from Gk. Philia) kind of brotherly or family love, affection*

*-this love must be sincere (without hypocrisy or manipulation) and fervent (“striving with all one’s energy”)*

*2. Test of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:*

*-Am I the kind of person who blows up easily or lashes out at others?*

*-Am I the kind of person who treats others with disrespect or even contempt?*

*-Am I the kind of person who thrives on attention from others?*

*-Am I the kind of person who must have my own way?*

*-Am I the kind of person who is always on the edge of anger?*

*-Am I the kind of person who can’t let go of a wrong, who keeps a ready supply of wrongs to trot out in an argument?*

*-Am I the kind of person who secretly enjoys seeing others fall?*

*3. Peter can command and expect this kind of love between believers because:*

*-we are purified as a result of our redemption and “being purified from sin enables Christians to show genuine family love for God’s children.”*

*-we are born again, we have new life through our faith in Jesus Christ through the Word of God which can never die, it is imperishable.*

*4. The Word of God is living, that is it gives life; and it is enduring, indestructible because the eternal God is behind it.*

*5. “We must …therefore, develop, cultivate, manifest this affection…Such love was needed by those early Christians, amid the withering heat of persecution and pain; such love is needed today where sorrows cast their shadows, and where the night of grief and doubt deepens; it is the fragrant expression of the life of faith,…” (Erdman)*

**“God Invades History“**

**Luke 2:1-20**

 **I. The Setting vv. 1-7**

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**II. The Announcement vv. 8-14**

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**III. The Worship vv. 15-20**

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