



**Tuesday, 12/20/16**

**FULFILLMENT OF LOVE**

**READING: Titus 3:4-7**

We show love to other people in our lives in many different ways. Sometimes we say a kind word or help someone in need. Perhaps we give someone a hug or a kiss. Maybe we show them patience. Growing up in my parents' house, I experienced my mother's love in the food that she prepared for us every day and in the hospitality she showed to others by inviting them into our home. My father expressed his love through encouraging words, spoken and written, and by supporting the athletic and academic pursuits of his children.

At Christmastime, we can show love by giving someone a special gift or by travelling a long distance to spend time with them or by preparing a favorite meal or treat. These are actions that tell others that we love them.

But how does God show his love for us? Romans 5:8 (NLT) says "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Jesus Christ was promised by God through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures (Romans 1:1-5) and even before the ages began (Titus 1:1-3)! Our salvation has nothing to do with any righteous acts that we do. We could never hope to do enough! His goodness and lovingkindness overflowed to us in the gift of His son. And that is what we celebrate at Christmastime, the greatest gift ever given, the fulfillment of God's love, mercy, and grace through which we enter into His family and have the hope of eternal life.

"We love each other because he loved us first." 1 John 4:19 (NLT)

How will you show love to God and others this Christmas season?

-Tim Stiansen