**These Perilous Times**

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**“Do We Truly Demonstrate the Love of Christ?”**

**Valentine’s Day**

**(A Little History)**

 “Valentine’s Day,” also called Saint “Valentine’s Day” or “Feast of Saint Valentine” is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a western Christian feast day honoring two early saints named Valentinus.

 However there is much folklore surrounding the true origin of “Valentine’s Day.” It was once a pagan holiday tradition first called “Lupercalia,” which entered the church during, or before the reign of Roman Emperor Constantine. The “Feast of Lupercalia” had to do with celebrating the pagan gods of fertility which preceded the foundation of Rome and was celebrated under the reign of Antemius.

 Twenty-four years after the death of Antemius a “Christianized” form of Lupercalia was officially adopted by the Roman church as a time to honor “Saint Valentine’s Day.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 On February 14 many people will be celebrate the annual “Valentine’s Day holiday-buying gifts and cards for family, friends, and loved ones. It’s always a good thing to show your affection to those that you love, but how does the true love of Christ fit in to our Valentine’s Day plans?

**Love and God’s Commandments**

Jesus stated in John 14:15: “If you love me, keep my *commandments*.”

This is my *commandment*, that you love one another *as I have loved you*. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” John 15:12 (Emphasis supplied)

“Jesus said to him, you shall love the Lord your God ***with all your heart***, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and *great commandment*. And the second is like it: *You shall love your neighbor* as yourself. On these two *commandments* hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40 NKJV

(Emphasis supplied)

 Don’t forget this Valentine’s Day, and every day, to *love your enemies* which is also a *Bible commandment*…

But I say unto you, *love your enemies*, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you…”

Matthew 5:44 KJV (Emphasis supplied)

 If you find it difficult to love those that you consider to be your enemies – go to Jesus and ask Him to give you that heart transplant that God promised to ancient Israel that they, and we so desperately need!

“Then will I give them *one heart*, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take away the *stony heart* out of their flesh, and give them a *heart of flesh*, that they may walk in My Statutes and keep my judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose hearts follow the desire to do their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads says the Lord.”

Ezek. 11:19-21 NKJV (Emphasis supplied)

“But God *demonstrates His love toward us* in that **while we were yet sinners** Christ, died for us.”

Romans 5:8 NASV

**Amen!**



1. Edward Gibbons, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Chapter

 36, Part 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)