Open your heart’s door .... to Christ

Text: 1 John 4: 9-11

Gold signified \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Frankincense, fragrant gum resin ground into powder and burned as incense, symbolized \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Myrrh denoted Jesus’ future \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and burial.

As it turned out, this little child was a unique gift Himself. Our heavenly Father gave Him to the world as a one-of-a-kind \_\_\_\_.

God the Father had ***two purposes*** in mind when He sent His Son to be born on this earth.

I. **This unique gift shows how much God \_\_\_\_\_\_ us.** [1 John 4:9]

 - ‘in this’ refers to God sending His unique Son. the Father’s action \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His love for us.

- this Son was no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Son, but the only begotten [unique, one-of-a-kind] Son of the Father

- this unique Son of God brought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life to all who trust in Him

II. **This unique gift helps us understand \_\_\_\_\_ love** [v. 10]

- the source of true love is God - ‘in this’ [the \_\_\_ of sending His Son] ‘is love’

- ‘not that we loved God’ emphasizes it was an act in which we had no part - a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ transaction of divine love

- the nature of true love is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - ‘He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [substitutionary sacrifice] for our sins.’

III. **God wants His love for us as expressed in His Son to be dispersed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to one another** [1 John 4:11]

- in this act we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the same love by which He loves us.