

A Christmas Reminder

How many of you already have your Christmas decorations up? How many of you are already listening to Christmas music? Now let me ask you this how many of you have already started Christmas gift shopping? Is anyone through yet? That is amazing.

We haven't even gotten past Thanksgiving, and we are inundated with Christmas. In fact, Thanksgiving has almost lost its meaning as now we are focused on Black Friday sales, getting the best deal online and shopping till we drop.

It seems that every year Christmas gets started earlier and earlier. Retail and stores drives that I think. Sadly, Christmas is so overly commercialized that we forget the true meaning of the season. Someone a few years back coined the term, "Jesus is the reason for the season." Then someone else commercialized that statement, and it is on T-shirts, bumper stickers, and all other kinds of stuff for a price of course!

This morning I want to give us all a Christmas reminder. It's found in a very familiar passage, John 3:16. Let's quote that together. As we approach Thanksgiving, THAT is truly something to be thankful for.

To me, that verse also sums up Christmas. For God so loved that He gave. Jesus is the first and best Christmas gift. Occasionally, we need a Christmas reminder.

This morning as we take up this offering, I want us to give motivated by love knowing that our gifts will impact scores of people not just here in our church or even locally but around the world. Let's show our love by giving today being mindful of the real reason for Christmas!