

## How Do You Give?

**How many of you still have last-minute shopping to do?** A lot of us. I don't want to hear from those of you that started shopping in July. For many of us, we don't get started until the start of December, or later!

What I think a lot of us do when it comes to shopping is that, without even thinking about it, we just get something. Anything. Just to have a gift to give someone. Oh, come on, I am not the only one that just grabs a gift for Uncle Bob from whatever is convenient. You know you go down the aisles scanning your eye until you find something the dear old uncle or aunt "might" like. After all, it's the gift that counts, right? I am sure that from time to time, that is how we give. We give whatever is convenient.

That's not at all what we do for those we really love and care about, though. We give not out of convenience but out of love. We spend hours, days, weeks, thinking of the just the right gift for those we love the most. When you give out of love, no sacrifice is too great. How we give says everything about how much we value the gift we are giving someone.

Isn't that the essence of the Christmas spirit? That spirit is summed up at the start of John 3:16. It says, "For God so loved, that He gave..." God gave a gift not of convenience but one of love. He gave us what was the most value to Him, His only Son. That gift is what we are celebrating in this season.

As we approach our time of offering, my prayer for all of us is that we would give driven by love, not convenience in our giving. No sacrifice is too great when you realize your gift is to the Lord and His work. How you give today says everything about how much you value the ultimate gift giver. So, let's give motivated by love.