

How Much Will You Spend on Christmas?

A recent Gallup poll found that the average American is expecting to spend \$781 on gifts alone this year for Christmas! How much will you spend?

Christmas spending doesn't stop there. On average we will spend for...

Christmas Tree: \$41.50

Cards & Postage: \$32.43

Floral Arrangements: \$22.61

Food & Candy: \$95.04

Decorations: \$51.43

Travel: \$960.50

It's expensive celebrating Christmas! One result of this is that consumer counseling agencies see a 25 percent increase in the number of people seeking help in January and February, and most of that traffic is propelled to their doors by holiday bills that haunt consumers like the ghost of Christmas past.

The point of my sharing this with you is not to be a Scrooge. I love all things Christmas! Yet I think all of us will agree that Christmas has gotten out of hand. Christmas is after all about the birth of Christ. At OUR CHURCH we want these weeks leading up to Christmas to enhance your ability to keep Jesus as the reason for the season! We believe in a healthy balance of Christmas fun with real worship of our Savior.

Speaking of balance, does your giving to support the church that Christ came for match what you spend to celebrate His birth? Sadly the average American church goer gives about \$25 a week to their church. Many will spend far more than that on toys that will be broken or forgotten before the year is over. When you give here your gift allows us to continue our mission of reaching people for Christ. Truly a gift given to OUR CHURCH is a gift that keeps on giving!

So celebrate Christmas this year with gusto! Just don't forget the reason for the season and work towards balancing what you give with what you spend.