

How the Offering Shows Your Thankfulness

How many of you shopped after Thanksgiving either at a brick and mortar store or online?

That is an American tradition that seems inbred into us about as much as turkey and pumpkin pie. From now until Christmas, the emphasis we will be bombarded with on TV and the Internet will be aimed at getting us to buy the latest greatest Christmas gift.

The buying season began the day after Christmas on what is now called Black Friday. Black Friday sales are expected to top \$6 billion. With the rise of online purchasing, another key buying day was established on the Monday following Thanksgiving which is called Cyber Monday. Cyber Monday sales are expected to be \$7.25 billion dollars this year.

A few years back, a group of non-profit fundraisers wanted to focus attention away from buying stuff to giving people an opportunity to give to a worthy cause. They settled on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving which is now called #GivingTuesday.

I think that is a great idea for all of us. That in the midst of all this spending, we stop and reflect that others are not as blessed as we are. While we can't solve every crisis, our generosity can be one small step in the process of helping those in need around us.

That is why every week we give you an opportunity to give here. From small gifts to large gifts, each gift enables us to continue communicating the life-changing message of Jesus. Every day the missions and ministries of this church make an impact on our community and our world.

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving so let's give an offering today as a sign of our thankfulness. Your giving will bring blessings and thanksgiving to others.