

## The Greatest Gifts Come From the Heart

**Last Tuesday was Valentine's Day where we show our love to the ones we love.** Overall Americans spend around \$20 BILLION dollars a year on Valentine's Day. Some of that is in the form of cards and a lot of it is candy. The point was to show your love to who you love.

Too often we think that the value of a gift is in its price. If you think that the amount you spend on a gift is the gauge of your love you are wrong. The only time price matters is if the cost of the gift is a sacrifice upon the giver. Even then it is not the amount that communicates love but the willingness to sacrifice greatly for someone we love. The key to the value of a gift is the motivation of the heart.

This past Tuesday some of you received gifts that are virtually worthless but for you they carry great value. For instance when a child creates from paper and glue their own Valentine for their mother that card though worthless to a stranger is of huge value to that child's mother. My guess is that some of you have Valentine's like that tucked away in a special place that you wouldn't sell for anything!

The offering time at church is no different. Each of us gives differently. The amount of what we give is not the issue. Paul shared with the Corinthians that, "If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don't have." He then stated that, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." The acceptable gift is the gift given from the heart that springs from love not compulsion.

So as we prepare to take up today's offering let's give from the heart. Let your gift today be one of love. Give what you can give but most importantly give from the heart cheerfully! This is one way we can show our love to God by giving back to Him.