

The Value of a Christmas Gift

Halloween is over, so does anyone already have their Christmas decorations up? We have not even celebrated Thanksgiving, and we are already focusing on Christmas. How many of you think that Christmas decorations should go up after Thanksgiving?

It seems every year the Christmas season gets stretched out. That is certainly true in the retail world. However, I now see more and more people putting their decorations up earlier and earlier. Here is another telling question, how many of you have already done Christmas gift shopping?

\$885 is what a Gallup study found to be the average Americans will spend on gift-giving this Christmas. That led me to wonder how much Americans give to the Church. It turns out the average is \$17 a week. \$17 times 52 weeks is \$884 annually. That amount is about what we spend on giving gifts at Christmas.

Here is my question. How many of the gifts you give this Christmas will last? Toys get broken. Ties get forgotten or re-gifted. Even the best gift will eventually wear out. That misses the point. The value of the gift is not in how long it lasts, but the love demonstrated by the gift. That is why we have the familiar phrase, "it's the thought that counts." However, even the best gift lasts only for a few years, if that.

A gift here to YOUR CHURCH NAME lasts for eternity. We use your gifts to help us maintain all the ministry and missions we do. Without your generosity, none of what you see would happen. Your gift in our offering allows us to further extend and build up the Kingdom of God. That work is eternal.

Jesus said this in the Sermon on the Mount, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

As we begin the holiday season, we want you to enjoy the season AND give great gifts to those you love. At the same time, remember the work we do here and give generously to support our life-changing mission to our area. That is storing treasure in heaven!
