

Were You in Line at 6 AM or Online?

It used to be that the holiday shopping period kicked off each year the Friday after Thanksgiving with what has become known as Black Friday. People would get up at crazy hours of the day to stand in line hoping to get the best deal on the newest trinket or bobble for Christmas.

Let me ask for a show of hands. How many of you were standing in line before the sun came up Friday morning attempting to land great deals? How many of you stayed at home but shopped online in your PJ's?

A couple of years ago we crossed a threshold for Black Friday weekend shopping. Now more people shop online than actually go to a brick and mortar store. People have found out they can get the same deals from the comfort of their homes.

While the numbers are still being tabulated it is projected that Black Friday spending this year will increase from last year by 47%. **One survey found that consumers plan to spend on average \$743 buying gifts over the Black Friday weekend.** That is up from the average spent last year of \$505. That is a lot of socks and ties for Uncle Bert.

We want you to shop until you drop and get the best deals you can. Yet let me share with you about a greater deal. This season amidst all your giving we want to encourage you to give faithfully to OUR CHURCH.

We exist, **YOUR MISSION STATEMENT.** Every time you give here you help us achieve this. We are about extending the Kingdom one person at a time. While many of the gifts bought this weekend will not last into the New Year, a gift here literally makes a difference for all eternity.

Oh, one more thing, you never have to stand in line here to give AND you can give online as well! Simply go to our website and find the give button. Whichever way you give we are grateful for your generosity!

Black Friday weekend statistics came from,
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/deborahweinswig/2017/10/27/2017-black-friday-and-cyber-monday-predictions/#4ea5c5335f14>