

## **What's In Your Heart is More Important Than What's In Your Wallet**

**You have probably seen the commercials that end by asking, "What's in your wallet?"** The answer for some of you after shopping this weekend might be, "not much!" Retail sales are expected to be around \$656 billion dollars. On average total spending by household is expected to be \$935.58. Some of you might have blown past that number on Black Friday alone! Those using credit cards spend more as the average amount Americans will spend using credit cards is \$986. We spend all this money for things that we forget about weeks after the fact.

**Can you remember what you got for Christmas five years ago? How about last year?**

Asking you that probably caused me to totally lose your attention as I can hear the wheels turning in everyone's minds as we think hard to remember. Unless it was something significant like a new car in the driveway I imagine that few of us can remember what we got five years ago or even last year.

Christmas gifts are temporal. There is nothing wrong with giving gifts for Christmas if it is done appropriately. Yet when we plunge into debt to make Junior happy about a toy that will break before January you just have to ask if the money was worth it? In our rush to buy and give gifts we often forget the real reason for Christmas, the birth of Jesus the ultimate gift.

John 3:16 says it best when it says, **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

That is a gift that truly keeps on giving! Our mission as Christians is to share the Good News that Jesus brings life, peace and joy. That is what we are committed to here at OUR CHURCH. We do this because we believe what is in your heart is more important than what is in your wallet. Money and gifts pass away but the love of Christ is forever.

So this season let's not forget the reason for the season, Jesus Christ Our Immanuel, God with us! Give gifts but consider giving something back to Christ's church as we are His arms and legs to this world that needs hope and healing. Every gift you give here lasts for eternity so please give generously!