



# The Monthly Beacon

*"When Jesus spoke to the people again, He said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*- John 8:12*

## **This Christmas, Unwrap Christ**

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)"*

Christmas! Just the sound of it renders excitement, merriment, and cheer. While it doesn't occur until December, celebrations began practically before Halloween's end and Thanksgivings beginning. Retailers feel an urgency to begin to entice buyers with special discounts and sales because there are fewer weeks than prior years until Christmas Day. Before the Thanksgiving meal was fully digested shoppers were already charting their course of action on how to snag the best deals.

Why has Christmas become so commercialized? Is it because we have left our first love and given ourselves to another (consumerism)? This message is not new and every year countless preachers convey the true meaning of Christmas is Christ.

Unfortunately, this message has gotten watered down with constant ads about "black Friday", "cyber Monday", "small business shopping", "Oprah's favorite things", "deals and steals" etc. We think, "oh so and so would like this, or he would like that" when in actuality that may not be what they want or need at all.

I'll not soon forget last Christmas. My youngest granddaughter put together her Christmas list and on it she indicated she wanted a male American Girl doll. I was so excited when I found one and not just any one; it was one that looked just like her Dad. As she opened the package I hoped to see excitement and glee. Instead she was visibly disappointed and said she didn't want it. Notice I was the one who was excited, me the giver not the recipient.





When God gave His Son He was giving us Someone who He knew could give us what we lost so long ago. Someone who could free us from sins grasp, Someone who would give us life and yet we unwrap His gift and become disappointed because it isn't exactly what we thought it would be.

Many of the gifts given years from now will be soon forgotten because misplaced value has been given to things instead of knowing the true riches of knowing and having Christ. What we do for someone else, what we give to someone else speaks volumes. God gave us Jesus!

There's nothing wrong with seeking the perfect gift but you won't find it in a box with ornate wrappings and tinsel bows. No, it's hidden inside the heart of those who have the spirit of the living God living inside of them.

It is when I accepted Christ that Christmas took on a whole new meaning and the darkness of depression that loomed overhead waiting for holidays end no longer held me captive.

Christmas never has to end when you know its true meaning.  
Merry Christmas!!