

Our Greatest Gift

Did you get any presents for Christmas? I did! After Christmas day I always like to sit back and consider which gift was my favorite and why, but more importantly, I ponder which gift I enjoyed **giving** the most and why. Over the years I have come to discover that the gifts I enjoy receiving and giving the most aren't necessarily the expensive ones but the ones that represent the love I share with the other person.

As this Advent season winds down and we launch into a new year, let us continue to ponder the incredible gift God gave us in the birth of Jesus. The gift of Jesus brought to humanity the possibility of salvation and relationship with God. While this gift was of tremendous importance and value, it came in the most humble of ways. The gift of Jesus is significant not because of how he arrived or who his parents were but because of the love with which he was given to a lost and desperate world. Jesus brought life and hope where before there was only death. Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "*God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us.*" Verse 8 goes on to tell us that this salvation is God's gift to us; and it is all because of the gift of Jesus.

It seems fitting to begin a new year by considering this tremendous gift of love we have received. But perhaps more importantly we should consider what God intended us to do with it.

Blessings,

Rhonda Johnston