

CHRISTMAS IS HOPE AND GENEROSITY!

December 10, 2017

Christmas is Hope – Matthew 1:18-25

- Hope that He will save us from our sins (not just sin)
- Hope that He will be with us (Psalm 46:1)

Christmas is Generosity

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again." John 3:16-17 (Message)

"We are saved because the Master Jesus amazingly and out of sheer generosity moved to save us..." Acts 15:11 (Message)

"We all live off God's generous bounty, gift after gift after gift." John 1:16 (Message)

- Gift giving because of the wise men bringing 3 gifts to Jesus (Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh)
- God gave the greatest gift – His Son and revealed to us amazing generosity...
- Generosity wasn't giving money – He gave Himself
- Jesus moved with compassion (Mark 1:40-45; Matthew 9:35-38; John 13:1-5; John 8:3-12; Matthew 18:21-35)
- Paul in I Thessalonians 2:8 "So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you, not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us."

WHY IS IT ESSENTIAL TO LEARN GENEROSITY?

1. _____

"The godly are generous givers." Psalm 37:21 (NLT)

"Everything we have has come from you Lord, and we can only give you what is yours already!" 1 Chron. 29:14 (LB)

2. _____

"It's selfish and stupid to think only of yourself." Prov. 18:1 (CEV)

"The greedy set an ambush for themselves; they booby-trap their own lives! It is the fate of all who are greedy. It ends up robbing them of life." Prov. 1:18-19 (NLT)

3. _____

"Your generosity... not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces prayers of thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor. 9:11-12 (GW)

"Your heart will be wherever your treasure is." Mt.6:21(NCV)

4. _____

"Your giving proves the reality of your faith..." 2 Cor. 9:13 (Ph)

5. _____

"Give generously to others and do so without a grudging heart; THEN BECAUSE OF THIS the Lord will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." Deut. 15:10 (NIV)

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Prov. 11:25 (NIV)

6. _____

"Use your worldly resources to benefit others... In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven." Luke 16:9 (NLT)

HOW TO DEVELOP A GENEROUS HEART

"You must make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Cor. 9:7-8 (NLT)

Authentic Generosity is ...

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"God will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Then you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously." 2 Cor. 9:10-11 (NLT)