

December 30, 2018

Series: Christmas Notes

Part 5: Our Finest Gifts We Bring

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1. As we approach 2019, what changes might there be for you? As Travis helped us understand, fads come and go. How can we keep celebrating Christ all year, “in every season”? Any suggestions for your family; for you? How do you keep Christ first every day?
2. The example of Matthew 2 – the wise men worship the young Jesus with generosity. Is our giving authentic, true? How can we know? Are there examples of kindness shown to you which you feel comfortable sharing?
3. Mark 12:31 – We are commanded to love as He loves us, with grace and mercy. Do our life styles, our interactions, our possessions, reflect this? What is our motivation for “good works”? Will it be different next year as we think about what he has done for us? Should it change?
4. Our labor in the world produces income (money). (Prov. 6:6) We can give, save, meet other’s needs, spend. What does your heart of hearts tell you to do with your resources? Does our heart tell us to hoard or give? How can we as Christians be wise about this with a pure heart? (2 Cor. 9:7) The key is balance with a cheerful heart.
5. James 5 tells us about rich powerful people who treated others with an impure, selfish, prideful heart. We may be guilty of this at times ourselves. (Leaders: consider discussing pride vs repentance – Travis’ point) Remember, our resources (money, time, energy, skills, knowledge) are ultimately a gift from Him. What does a believer do with a gift which can impact individuals around us for Jesus?
6. In Matthew 5:14-16, the Word, tells us who we are. We are the “light of the world”. Our light is revealed in good works. Who gets the praise and honor for such work? (Leaders: suggest you have someone read the passage and wait for the answer.) Answer: They (others) will give glory to the Father. Do we really believe this and show it to those around us?
7. What were you created for? (Eph. 2:10) We were created in Christ Jesus for the good works which were prepared for us long ago. Do we “walk” in them? What might it mean to do good works because we are “in” Christ? Do we walk with Christ because we are ordered to, supposed to? Does this win His favor? No His favor is a free gift, the best one there is. The gift is that we can be “in” Him.