

THE CORNERSTONE

Christmas is a celebration of Jesus Christ, God's gift to mankind.

So often we get caught up in the worldly trappings of Christmas. We see everything with the temporal mindset that demands immediate gratification and personal enrichment. The world exploits self-focus, and uses the mythology of Santa Claus as a marketing technique to further this mindset.

In contrast, Jesus assumed the penalty of sin through physical death and separation from God, and, by His resurrection, overcame the consequences of death. Having the gift of a resurrected hope in one's life gives confidence in the promise of a restored relationship with God and a life without end, in fellowship with Jesus Christ. The greatest gift we can offer is sharing Jesus through our words and actions.

We enjoy giving and receiving, but the real value of Christmas is the coming

of Jesus Christ. This gift is the work of God. Sharing this gift is the work of the Christian.

Some ways to share are:

- Commit to a life of prayer and scripture devotion.
- Humble yourself to the will of God.
- Respect, and offer support to, the needs of others.
- Insist on truth in all actions.
- Support the things of God with your time, talent, and treasure.
- Testify of Jesus Christ throughout all the world.

Take to heart the words of the familiar saying, "Jesus is the reason for the season," understanding that this season should never end but remain with us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Merry Christmas from the Alaska Baptist Foundation.

