

SKYVIEW CHURCH

WHERE CHRISTIANS MEET

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Volume 20, Number 50

December 17, 2017



This is the time of the year we are thinking about gift giving. We want to choose that "perfect" gift for our spouses, children, grand-children and friends. We spend much time shopping, looking for sales and something we think the gift recipient would like and appreciate. A large amount of money is spent every year at this time on gifts. Some families max out credit cards and go in great debt to buy gifts for people they

Often the "perfect" gift we choose to give someone is not really needed or even wanted by the recipient. I remember when our kids were younger, they enjoyed playing with the cardboard boxes their gifts were packaged in more than the gift itself. Have you ever received a gift and asked, "What am I going to do with this?" This happens more often than not. Sometimes we receive a gift and it is put away somewhere and forgotten.

Let me suggest a few things we can give to others that will not cost us financially and most likely will be greatly appreciated by the recipient. There are many in our circle of friends and family that need what we are able to give them. These "gifts" are more valuable than anything we can buy.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT. Many people are going through difficult times in their lives. A simple word of encouragement would help them tremendously. Just letting them know we care and offering to assist will help them more than we could possibly think.

A VISIT TO A SHUT-IN. Spending a few minutes with someone who is shut-in means more to them than any gift we could give. A greeting card is nice, but a personal greeting...a visit would mean so much more.

SAYING THE WORDS "I LOVE YOU." How often do we neglect telling those we love that we do love them? We take for granted that they know that. Maybe they do, but it is still good to hear that from them once in a while.

MAKING A PHONE CALL. Maybe in our rushed, busy and fast world we do not have the time to make a visit in person. What about a phone call? I have been hearing a song the last few days on the radio, I think the title is "Collect Call," where a mother always requested that her son call her collect on Christmas Day. This year, he called too late....his mother had passed away.

There are many others things we can give that will not drain us financially. And I guarantee that these "little things" will be more valuable than any gift we spend money on. This year, let's give "meaningful" gifts. Gifts that will make a difference. Gifts that will be appreciated by the receiver. Gifts that will not be put in the closet or in a drawer and forgotten about.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!