

THE CORNERSTONE

What is the ultimate gift?

Scripture reminds us that in its most basic form the ultimate gift is LOVE. In our modern English language, the concept of love has become so extensive/relative in its meanings that one could argue, it has none. In the vacuum of secular relativism, it is even more important that we remind ourselves of the certainty of God's Truth. So, what is God's Truth and how is it related to **L.O.V.E.** consider the following:

Love of God and his image bearer man/humankind

Obedience in carrying out the directives of God revealed in the Holy Bible

Volitional submission to God in our lives

Engaging with our whole heart (mind, will, and emotions) to share the good news of salvation/Truth/Jesus Christ with the dying world.

Jesus Christ is the perfect embodiment of the gift of LOVE. He was engaged with his whole heart to the mission of salvation. He demonstrated perfect volitional submission and obedience to the will of God the Father. He loved perfectly because he was God Himself in the flesh, demonstrating love toward the Father in the power

of the Holy Spirit. Christ is God's gift of love toward us, and our humble obedience is our gift to God, through faith and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

With this realization it should be impressed on each of us during this time of year especially, that we make some provision of giving to the Lord. We do this in two primary ways. First, continued spiritual development working on LOVE towards God. Second, our LOVE toward fellow humankind through the resources of time, talent, and treasures. Some examples are:

- The local church- discipleship/ministry/evangelism
- The Lottie Moon Christmas offering
- The World Hunger Fund
- Birchwood Behavioral Health
- Various other Christian benevolence programs
- Financial support through a donor advised charitable trust fund through the Alaska Baptist Foundation

Let us always remember and take to heart the words of that familiar saying "Jesus is the reason for the season" and let's especially remember that this season never ends.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas season from the Alaska Baptist Foundation

