

December 17, 2018

The year has spun by, Christmas Eve is one week away how did it happen so fast. With Christmas comes a great deal of anticipation and yes even stress, which we seem to create for ourselves. Did we get all the shopping done, did we get Holiday greetings out are we prepared for all the celebrating ahead of us this Holiday season. It seems like we have our own lists just like Santa Clause.

Are we really prepared for the season though, have we considered what is most important in our lives. Not the size, scope or cost of the gifts we purchase, or how many we may get, but instead the meaning of this time of year. A chance to slow down and enjoy our families, loved ones, friends and those who have impacted our lives.

For Christians the meaning for the season is revealed in the Bible Luke Chapter 2 Verses 10 - 12 The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

So for Christians it is a time built around the belief of a savior, Jesus Christ, being born and the importance of that one single birth played out in the following 33 years of that child's life. The new beginning for humanity and the promise of a future of salvation in a world of vast uncertainty. The holiday continually

reveals the hope for mankind and the belief in an eternal life beyond this one we have.

For others this season is all about the wonder and excitement of the season. Christmas trees, decorations inside and outside the house and who may put on the best display. Also a time for enjoying what you have and even sharing with others. There are many opportunities in our community to share with others and that is a great expression of the spirit of Christmas.

I know we tend to get caught up in the excitement of the holidays, which is easy to do, especially if you have children young or older. We have a desire to make each other satisfied and happy during the holidays, which is a good thing, but it can also distract from slowing down and enjoying the season that comes along only once a year.

You cant deny that there is something unique and magical about Christmas. Something about the cold and sometimes wet nights with the different activities, which continue to remind us of the season. It is at times overwhelming, but not to be taken for granted.

So this Christmas season take some time to enjoy those you have to spend the holiday with. Count your many blessings and share what you can with others. Remember this holiday season comes around just once a year so take the time to embrace it. This has been Mike Downey for Community Comment.