

## Christmas, A Celebration? ...

By Dr. Douglas Keffer

Christmas is to be the most exciting time of the year for us as families. I have so many wonderful memories of the excitement of Christmas mornings growing up in Dickerson Run, PA. I have always been an early riser, but on Christmas morning, I can remember all five of us children were up very early. We would be listening to hear either mom or dad call up to us, "Okay, you can come down now." This meant that they had made the last adjustments to the presents under the live blue spruce Christmas tree that stood proudly in the bay window in the dining room, complete with a wonderful fireplace that would be burning so brightly. We would hurry down the stairs, run through the kitchen with all the wonderful smells of Christmas breakfast, and see that glorious site of the Christmas tree and the presents awaiting us. I still remember some of the wonderful gifts I received over the years I was at home with my four siblings. Ones we gave each other and those from mom and dad. We celebrated Christmas, and those memories still flood my heart.

This Christmas I want to encourage all of you parents to muse on how you are going to celebrate

Christmas. I pray that your preparation is going to be more than all the gifts you have bought your children. Let this year's celebration center around the great gift God has given us, His wonderful Son, Jesus. I want to encourage you to take your children to the special services your church is offering, such as the Christmas music that your choir is presenting. All the special activities the youth department is having for your children. Plan to attend the Christmas Eve service if offered. Then there are all the special activities that your family will be having with your extended families. I truly want all of you to Celebrate Christmas as a family. Merry Christmas!

### Facebook & Website

We have developed a FB page under Douglas F C Keffer, Ph D, and NBCS. Please encourage all your friends to "like" us. Please pass along our website address. Thank you for your prayers and support, asking God's blessings upon NBCS!

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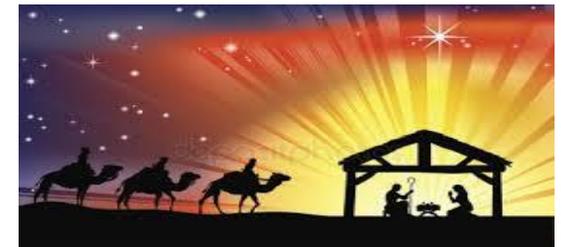
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## Precious Gifts...

By Dr. Douglas Keffer



It was forty-eight years ago at this time that I was at my wife's mother's home in Athens, WV for Christmas. It was a very special Christmas because I had brought a very precious gift for the young lady I had asked to spend the rest of her life with me, and she said, "Yes!"

It was time to exchange gifts that were given out, and I handed this young lady her present. It was beautifully wrapped, and she began to open it with excitement. In that gift box was another one. Then another box, and then, another box. Finally, she got to the last box in the gift package. She open it and saw a precious gift I was giving her...her engagement ring. I cannot tell you the joy I felt as I looked at this beautiful girl I had fallen in love with when she saw that beautiful ring. That look is forever etched in my heart because that ring was a symbol of my commitment to her that I would love and cherish her the rest of my life. Now over forty-seven years later that ring has been changed

into a "past, present, and future" ring, and it still is as precious as the day I gave it to her that Christmas morning.

Beloved, this Christmas I want all of us to think of precious gifts we have been given over the years by the special people in our lives. What gift comes to your mind right now? Let me ask you to go to the person or people that gave you that gift and thank them for their thoughtfulness, and care of you. They gave you that gift because they love you and wanted to do something very special for you.

This Christmas, may we turn our hearts to the great God of our lives and thank Him for the precious gift He gave us in his Son, Jesus. That miracle has blessed the world ever since Mary bore Him in Bethlehem, and we have had the privilege to worship Him every Christmas, and every day since we began hearing the wonderful Christmas story, "*Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.*" My heart-keeper and I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, and want to share with you the joy we have experienced over all these years of happiness and blessings. Have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Referrals Are Our Lifeline...

I was beginning a session with one of my clients and she started to tell me that she has given my information to her friend that is going through a similar situation. She told me that she encouraged her friend to call me and set an appointment because she knows that her friend will be blessed by learning her temperament just as she has been blessed. She told me that she has been to other counselors, but has never learned more about herself and how she has been created than sitting and learning this at NBCS. This is God answering my prayer that I pray every morning, "Please, God, let me see Your glory today in my world you use me in." I want to encourage each of you to think of that loved one, friend, and/or co-worker you know that is struggling and needs help. Encourage them to pick up their phone and give us a call. The help they need is right here and I will help them. This is what NBCS does. Give your friends our website address, [www.newbeginningscounsel.com](http://www.newbeginningscounsel.com), and encourage them to learn about NBCS. Thank you so much for getting the word out about the help that is available at NBCS! God bless you!