

## ***Pastor's Ponderings*** – December 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, that season of the year is closing in on us again; soon we will be seeing those all so familiar Christmas Trees popping up in all kinds of places.

Yes, Christmas Trees in homes, in offices, in stores, and maybe even out of doors, will be seen as we go about our many daily activities !!!

Christmas Trees from real to fake, popping up here, and there and everywhere !!!

Christmas Trees with lights that glow or lights that blink; lights with reds, yellows, blues, and greens intermixed or possibly all one color in white, or red, or blue, glowing or blinking lights !!!

Christmas Trees with shimmering Tinsel wrapped around from top to bottom or is it bottom to top just seems to add a bit of sparkle and dazzle to each Christmas Tree !!!

Christmas Trees with all those different decorations, from store bought to home crafted and handmade, from theme oriented to no theme, from variety pack to all one style, just hanging there on each and every Christmas Tree !!!

Christmas Trees, look see up at the top, at the very height, there just may be a star or an angel looking down from above !!!

So, the Christmas Tree with lights, tinsel, decorations, and the topper, it all pales as the eye drifts down to all those beautifully wrapped Christmas Packages at the base of the Christmas Tree. Ah those wondering eyes which if any of those precious Christmas Packages are meant for me ??? What **GIFT** might I expect to find under the **CHRIST**mas Tree ???

Well, the clue for **ONE** and for **ALL**, is found not so much by reading the nametags on the Christmas Packages under the tree but by looking to the topper on the tree when the topper on the tree is a **STAR** or an **ANGEL**!!!

What ??? What do you mean ??? Well, it was the Angel with a Heavenly Host who announced to the shepherds who were out in the fields watching their flocks by night where to go to see the **GIFT** wrapped and ready for the celebration !!! Well, it was the star, the Bethlehem Star that led the three Wiseman to the place and to the **GIFT** wrapped and ready for the celebration !!!

The **CELEBRATION** of **CHRIST**mas, with the **CHRIST**mas Tree, and the **CHRIST**mas gifts for **ONE** and for **ALL** is found in that little baby boy wrapped not in **CHRIST**mas Wrapping Paper or with **CHRIST**mas Bow, but wrapped in as the angel did say “in Swaddling Cloths and lying in a **MANGER**” !!!

Indeed, Christmas Trees, will soon be popping up all over the place, here, there, and everywhere!!! There will be Christmas Trees topped with Stars, and Angels, and other such things totally unrelated. It really does not matter what is at the top of the Christmas Tree or that which lies under the Christmas Tree, what matters is that which is within our HEARTS !!! Yes, what matters is the CHRISTmas GIFT and GOD'S gracious LOVE revealed in the CHRIST child's birth in Bethlehem, not for ONE but rather for ALL !!!

May our CELEBRATION of CHRISTmas at this time, truly be rooted and grounded the birth of the CHRIST Child, and the wonder of GOD'S gracious LOVE for us !!!

*Love in Christ,  
Dana*