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## The Best Gift for Christmas

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We all know those individuals who venture out on some of the busiest days during the holiday season to line up outside widely-known discount stores for their chance to score big on the latest and greatest in gifts for their family and friends. However, this time of year we should remember the real reason for the season.

This time of year is a special time when many of us try to focus on what is truly important. I hope all of you will be able to enjoy the blessings of a caring family, dear friends, and the love of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

The message of the very first Christmas was one of peace and good will toward mankind.

*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger.’”*

*“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’”*

No other season better captures the goodness and joy of the human heart than Christmas. This joy is expressed through the love and kindness for others—in traditional as well as unusual ways.

Think back to more than 2000 years ago, when the three wise men brought their best to celebrate the birth of Jesus. After Jesus was born, the wise men set out to look for Him. To bring honor to the child, the wise men brought rich gifts of gold (a gift fit for a King), frankincense (burnt in worship of God), and myrrh (a sign of mortal humanness, used to bury the dead).

However, you are not expected to give the gift of gold to all your loved ones this Christmas. Rather, use this special time to remember the spirit of the season and the reason we celebrate by giving our best to one another.

A kind word to a lonely soul, a warm smile to someone who is disheartened, and a word of witness to help a person in need are all wonderful ways to share the Christmas spirit. Take care and God Bless you and yours on this very special holiday. I hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov).

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.*

