

## Christmas From The Couch

- **Welcome To Christmas From the Couch! Did it this way for 3 reasons**
  1. **Protect Time With Your Families**
  2. **Give Our Volunteers a Break (Takes Probably 30 Or 40 people...Work hard every Sunday)**
  3. **Still want to honor the Lord, take time from the opening of presents to remember WHY!**
- **Decided to do things a little differently...So Orin and I are each going to share a few thoughts, Him first!  
So Orin tell me your favorite things about Christmas?**
- **As I was thinking about Christmas this year I was remembering the WORST Gift...and The BEST!**
  1. **Worst: an electric train! GOT IT! My older brothers played with it all night...ONLY BACKWARDS!**
  2. **Best: The year I got the iconic BB gun...went outside proceeded to shoot wall...bounce back...**
- **When I think about those experiences...and so many others that have to do with Gift Giving, It drives me back to reason we exchange gifts. This Christmas I want to go back to the basics. Why? Easy to lose meaning**
  1. **It is an expression of LOVE to the person we give the gift to**
  2. **It reminds us (or it SHOULD) of God's Gift to us of His Son**
  3. **I know the calendar might not be accurate...Don't know Jesus ACTUAL birthday...Probably NOT 25th**
  4. **That really doesn't matter to me. What matters is remembering Him...and Honoring Him**
- **So, Listen to the Story...It's VERY Familiar...If you have been in Church for any length of time...you recite it.**
  1. **Luke 1:26-35 (Son of God)**
  2. **Luke 2:1-18 (When they had seen Him)**
- **A couple of thoughts:**
  1. **Anticipation:** The Nation was waiting...anticipating...Hoping...and Praying for God to work Lord, send messiah! The shepherds, just like all the nation...waiting
  2. **Obedience:** They heard from God and they OBEYED...They went to look for what was promised! All too often we hear the Promise of God...but we don't obey Our doubts...Our fears...Our struggle to believe...Our circumstances...Hold us back Not so with them...they OBEYED
  3. **Fulfillment:** When they had SEEN HIM!  
Read that slowly...if you aren't careful...totally overlook the significance. They SAW the fulfillment of the PROMISE OF GOD...BECAUSE OF OBEDIENCE  
Pause for a moment with me...Go back to the stable...cave...Shelter...  
STAND at the manger...and LOOK HE WAS THERE...EVERYTHING PROMISED REALIZED
  4. **Question:** What are you waiting for from God?  
What Prayer are you praying...What Request are you making...What Need Lifting  
We all have them...those things that we DESPERATELY want God to do...WAITING
  5. **OBEY:** What do YOU need to DO today...to obey what you have heard from God?  
You see...God works in our obedience.  
The shepherds would never have seen the Christ Child in the field. HAD TO GO: OBEY  
Where is God waiting for YOU to obey...Ask Him...He will show it to you.
  6. **Fulfillment:** When we OBEY...We see the Promise of God in our life. May not come the way we want. They all wanted an earthly King...what they Got was a spiritual King...BUT...what they GOT was SO MUCH BETTER than what they ever wanted!

In a week we start a new year. And EVERY one of us will begin the year with something we desire...something we anticipate...A dream for what God might do for us: My challenge today is to do 3 things:

1. **Boldly Ask God for what you desire in this coming year.**
2. **OBEY**
3. **LOOK FOR HIS HAND!**