

The gift of joy essay



The Gift of Joy As your pastor - I felt the need as Christmas 2001 shifts into high gear - to talk about, to remind you, to remind me, to remind us, of what the true meaning of Christmas really is. Now I don't really expect to tell anything you don't already know... I'm just trying to do what Peter did in his second letter;" So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them...I think it is right to refresh your memory..." 2 Peter 1: 12,

13This morning, we kick off a 4 week sermon series, I'm calling, ' The Gifts Of Christmas,' During the next 4 weeks, we will talk about the gift of significance, the gift of joy, the gift of Christ, and the gift of seeing Him.

TODAY - I want to begin with the gift of joy... AND I want to talk about joy for 2 reasons. #1; because it is most definitely one of the gifts of Christmas...

Luke records the following words in the second chapter of his gospel; Luke 2: 8-11" I bring you good news of GREAT joy..." CIRCLE - " great joy....

" Now, the word ' great' is the Greek word ' megas' it's where we get our English word mega. I like that... LISTEN - the good news the angels proclaimed was not just the good news of ' joy' - NO it was the good news of MEGA joy... Mega joy for all people, mega joy for me, mega joy for you... The second reason I want to talk about joy, as we begin this series, is because for many - Christmas is NOT a joyful time... SURE - we sing, " Joy to the world the Lord is come" " O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant" " repeat the sounding joy" and " Tis the season to be jolly" - BUT joy - real joy seems to elude so many. BUT I am sure that is not news to you - hey we have all heard the statistics (maybe we've been part of them, a time or 2) statistics, of how the Christmas season is a time a great depression for so many, statistics of how the suicide rate goes up this time of year...AND LISTEN - it's

not only those out in the world who feel this way, I've seen people, even people who belong to...