“Our Hearts, Hope, and The Messiah!”

Matthew 6:19-21; 31-33
“I want a Red Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot range model air rifle.”
2016 Christmas Retail Spending

Online purchases = $1.15 Billion thru 5:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day

Total Christmas spending projected sales to grow 3.6 percent this year to $655.8 billion.

Could mean as much as 40% of annual profits for retailers
The Things That **Compete** For The Hope in Your Heart

Grass is greener syndrome (restless searching)

Material possessions, money, power, fame

“This will complete me” ... “If only...”

“Then I will be happy ...”
A “Hope Diagnostic” Reveals the Deepest Desires of the Heart!

Assessing your treasures in life...

Time = actual on the field + “tween the ears” down time

Money – your checkbook

Talent + spiritual gifts

What are you willing to sacrifice other life elements for ...
Is This Worth **Sacrificing** For???

“...the pace of Muslim conversion is accelerating. Of the 82 people movements of Muslims becoming Christians since Islam was founded, 84 percent have occurred within the last two decades. Millions who used to follow Islam are now following Jesus.”  - - Breakpoint

The Late Chuck Colson’s ministry
“The Teaching Jesus Gave ...”

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth...” (Matthew 6:19).

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).

“For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows you need all these things...” (Matthew 6:32).

Food, drink, clothing... basic necessities...
Drilling Down to
What Really Matters...

Brecklynn Allgood, parents
Zach and Courtney Allgood
“Their story...”
Isaiah’s Passion:
A Coming Messiah and His Kingdom!

Jesus didn’t arrive in Isaiah’s lifetime –
Northern Kingdom overrun by Assyria (722 B.C.)

* Northern Kingdom dispersed by Assyria
* Southern Kingdom hope – The Messiah!

Takeaway: the Lord and His Kingdom not limited to our national hopes or even our lifetimes!
Echoed by Simeon + Anna

Luke 2:25-32 – **Simeon** – “looking for the consolation of Israel... he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ”

Luke 2:36 - **Anna** – “she never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers... (she) continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem”

Exemplified in Matthew 6:33 – “Seek ye first...”
Our Fundamental Hope in Jesus

His character is pristine and holy! (Isaiah 9:6)
“who committed no sin” (1 Peter 2:22)

Spans the seasons of life into eternity! (Is. 9:7)

His coming Kingdom! (Isaiah 11:6-9)

Justice for the downtrodden (Isaiah 40:3-11)
Hope Born Among Us in a Profoundly **Humble** Way

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel”  
(Isaiah 7:14)