## Essay from bold pastor #5 - Christmas Extravaganza -

The holiday season has begun, which means that the competition is on for retailers trying to make the most profit from the jingle-jangle shopping spree. The sales made during this season amounts to as much as 40 percent of their total annual domestic sales. You can imagine how fierce the competition can get, especially in this prolonging economic recession. The "battle" begins with the Black Friday and the Cyber Monday following Thanksgiving and continues through the New Year's Day.

Walmart, the monster retailer, will have a head start as always, opening their stores at 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Obviously for them, the "Black Thursday" is the new "Black Friday." Target, Best Buy, Kohl's, and Macy's, who open their stores at midnight on Friday, will follow.

Besides shopping, what comes to your mind when you think of Christmas? Putting up a tree, sending out greeting cards, and the list goes on and on. However, if you stop and think for a second, these frenzies associated with Christmas don't carry the actual meaning of Christmas.

As you know, the word "Christmas" means Mass of Christ. It was written in the bible 2700 years ago where Jesus Christ would be born and what he would do. This prediction was made 700 years before he was born, and the day it was proven true became known as Christmas. Although there are many great figures in the world, he is the only one whose birth was foreseen. The anticipation for his arrival was a gift sent from God to humans. The bible says;

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Let's worship Jesus Christ this year to celebrate the actual meaning of Christmas. We shall then be given a blessing that we need for we don't know when we'll perish.



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