

12-24-25 Summary

This Christmas Eve service invites us into the profound mystery of God's greatest gift—a Savior wrapped not in silk, but in swaddling clothes, placed not on a throne, but in a feeding trough. We journey through the Old Testament prophecies, discovering that God's people waited through 39 books, 929 chapters, and over 23,000 verses for the promise of Emmanuel to arrive. The message powerfully reminds us that God's delays are not God's denials. When the time was right, the gift arrived in the most unexpected wrapping. We explore three transformative gifts: grace—unearned and freely given, like finding an unexpected envelope on your doorstep; presence—God with us, made real through both divine encounter and human connection; and eternal life—a gift that never fades or goes out of style. The compelling illustration contrasts an outdated Atari football game with today's realistic Madden, showing how some things age poorly, but Christ's gift remains eternally perfect and relevant. The central question challenges us: the issue isn't whether God has given the gift, but whether we've chosen to open it. Like presents left untouched under the tree, we can admire Christ from a distance or truly receive His forgiveness, peace, and presence into our hearts. This message calls us not just to encounter Jesus on Sunday mornings, but to integrate His joy into our daily lives and share this indescribable gift with others.