

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

BBC FOUNDATION • CLARKS SUMMIT, PA

Costly Worship

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“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him...’ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh” (Matthew 2:1,2,9-11, NIV).

Many people will travel great distances to be with family this holiday season. Christmas can be a special time of the year. Would it surprise you to know that many people report being more depressed during the Christmas holiday than other times of the year? We place such an importance on being happy during Christmas that we forget the reason for the season. Christmas is not about receiving. It is about giving. Even more, Christmas is not simply about giving better gifts than we receive as if we all are in competition. Christmas is about giving worship to the babe in the manger – Jesus Christ.

Christmas worship can be costly. Consider the Magi described in the Christmas story in Matthew. Scholars debate where the Magi came from. No matter. They exhibited some of the same qualities that we must display about the Christ. They had *faith* in the revelation they had

received of the Savior. They took *time* and *strength* to travel a great distance to see this little babe. They *gave* valuable possessions to show honor to Jesus. Their worship was *costly*. This type of giving can be more costly than all of the money that we spend on Christmas presents. It is rare because you can’t buy it from a store. It comes from the overflow of the heart.

In the busyness of the Christmas season, remember to give the most important gift of all – true worship to Jesus Christ. Many great things will be done for Jesus Christ in 2001. Let’s build these things on the proper foundation – worship. May we then commit ourselves to see His kingdom expanded by giving of what we have to gain eternal blessings that can never be lost. If we follow this sequence – worship and then giving – we will become better givers, place our own significance in perspective, and more clearly see the significance of the One born in the manger who became poor so that we might become spiritually rich (2 Cor. 8:9).

On behalf of BBC FOUNDATION INC. and Baptist Bible College & Seminary, may you have a blessed Christmas season!

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org