

## THE “REAL” BLACK FRIDAY THE “REAL” GIVING TUESDAY

We live in an amazing time of year full of activity, hope, excitement, dreams – and marketing.

Every day wears a name starting with Thanksgiving (and my birthday) all the way to Christmas and New Year.

A marketing stroke of genius has given us Black Friday. But maybe we should look at the calendar in a different way to be reminded (at this time of year) about the real black Friday before we get to Christmas. The “real” black Friday does have its own ironic name - “Good Friday.” And it is both “good” and “black.” It was a day that broke God’s heart where He gave His Son who knew no sin to become sin for us and nailed Him to the cross. No wonder the earth shook, the sun hid, and eternity changed.

Giving Tuesday really has another name – it’s called Resurrection Sunday. And it really is the day of “giving” – when God gave us the absolute gift of eternal life. The gift is given and paid for by the buyer. When we try to pay for it, it is no longer a gift but a purchase. And there are not enough resources in the

world to pay for it, so it has to remain a gift. Our challenge is – we have to accept the gift (as unworthy as we might feel or as proud as not wanting to accept it or need it) otherwise it remains an unopened Christmas package under some tree – the tree of the Cross.

Our modern calendar is slightly (?) skewed. Our days are disordered. This season actually starts with Christmas – the first part of God’s gift when Jesus became one of us (incarnated – God in the flesh,) lived as we do, walked as we do but perfectly showed us how to obey – even to death on the cross – Black Friday. But Christmas and Good Friday without Resurrection Sunday are only the shopping and the wrapping of God’s greatest gift. It is Resurrection Sunday that makes the gift one that only God can give – eternal life.

When we accept His gift it transforms our calendar. Thanksgiving is no longer the fourth Thursday of November but everyday becomes Thanksgiving for the gift of eternal life.