

## Luke 1:26-36 &amp; 2:1-20

As we countdown to Christmas, may you truly focus on what's really most important. Too many miss it – even, dare I say, many Christians, by the way of their actions and attitudes. The Gospel of Luke points us to this goal as it challenges us to consider the Gift.

*Gifts often come with special wrapping, fancy trimming and a nametag.  
Newspaper vs. fancy paper and ribbons*

***The Wrapping (Luke 2:12)***

This Child, this Gift you are looking for, will not be surrounded by external splendor and outward glitter and glory, but instead by common wrappings.

***The Trimmings (Luke 2:13,14)***

Loud heavenly choruses announce this gift of God's peace. But don't miss where the choruses resound: not at the manger scene but in the distant fields where the Shepherds are gathered. At the manger, the trimmings are virtually non-existent and quite ordinary.

***The Tag (1:30,31; Matthew 1:21)***

This name, Jesus, is no accident. The full name in Hebrew is a sentence name: "Yahweh," or "Jehovah Saves, or God who is Salvation."

***The Contents (1:32,33)***

His excelling greatness!  
His absolute exaltation!  
His supreme power!  
His Eternal reign!  
His perpetual Kingdom!

***The Purpose (2:29-32)***

To bring salvation to all peoples, including the gentiles! This gift is available to all, the invitation is to everyone, but the benefits are only for those who will act.

**Conclusion:** "The gift of Jesus Christ is God's present to you this Christmas. Simply acknowledging the gift exists, or simply noting its presence does nothing for you personally. You must unwrap the gift. If you have, why not share the gift with others?" - Jim Stevanus