

## after *Christmas*

Tim Gill - December 28, 2014

- Christmas is not a onetime event.
- Christmas is the beginning of something eternal.

*So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but live wisely.*  
**Ephesians 5:15 (NCV)**

### **How can I live wisely after Christmas?**

#### **1. I start finding ways to get closer to Jesus.**

*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.* **Matthew 2:2 (NIV)**

- They are called 'wise men' because they are learners.

*Search for the LORD and live!* **Amos 5:6a (GWT)**

*... when you search for me with all your heart, you will find me! <sup>13</sup> I will let you find me, says the LORD...* **Jeremiah 29:13-14 (NCV)**

*Happy are those who obey his decrees and search for him with all their hearts.* **Psalms 119:2 (NLT)**

#### **2. I start giving Jesus my best.**

*They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* **Matthew 2:11 (NLT)**

- My treasure can be anything!

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* **Matthew 6:21 (NIV)**

- My treasure chest is my heart.

### **Why should I open my treasures to Jesus?**

1. When I open my treasures, I honor God.

*People all around the world respect my name. All around the world people bring good gifts to me. They burn good incense as a gift to me. Why? Because my name is important to all those people.*  
**Malachi 1:11 (ERV)**

2. When I open my treasures, I bring salvation to others.

*You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else.*  
**2 Corinthians 9:13 (GWT)**

3. When I open my treasures, God blesses my life.

*Jesus said, "More blessings come from giving than from receiving"*  
**Acts 20:35 (CEV)**

#### **3. I start heading in a new direction.**

*But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.*  
**Matthew 2:12 (ICB)**

- God wants to change the direction of my life.

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*  
**Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.* **Romans 6:4 (NIV)**

**Question #1:** What will I do to get closer to God?

**Question #2:** What treasure will I give to God?

**Question #3:** What's my new direction?