The Christmas celebration is not only about the moment Jesus was born 2,000 years ago. It is also about the current moment of invitation to invest ourselves in His kingdom. How we respond to that invitation to follow Him is how we prepare for our eternal existence (with or without Him). Christmas shows us that God draws closer to us so that we can draw closer to Him. Christmas invites each of us to invest our lives in the kingdom of God. All that we have in life comes from God and can assist us on our journey home to the Father. Of course these gift could also keep us from drawing closer to God.

Even as people claiming the title of “Christians,” recognizing God’s generosity and our stewardship responsibility, we still experience tension between the spiritual and the temporal. The investment into the kingdom of God is a difficult struggle to put the spiritual before the temporal. This struggle is exemplified by our thoughts and activities in preparation for Christmas - our thoughts and actions are not always focused on the birth of our Savior, rather, all that needs to get done before December 25th.

The Advent message is a stewardship message - prepare for the fulfillment of the kingdom… straighten out your life… if we have, we should give… The birth of Christ is the moment of fulfillment that leads to another moment of fulfillment. His coming 2,000 years ago is more about our inevitable face-to-face meeting with Him and how we have prepared for that encounter. Do we “lay-up for ourselves treasures in heaven” - investing in His ultimate kingdom or do we invest in something else?

To lay-up for ourselves treasures in heaven is how we prepare for future heavenly economics. Imagine that you are living in Iraq a year ago. You have acquired a large amount of dinar (Iraqian currency with Saddam Hussein’s image on it). There is some warning that the U.S. troops, and allies, would invade Iraq and soon topple the Saddam Hussein regime. You have an opportunity to cash in your dinar for U.S. currency, prior to the invasion. Would you prepare for the new kingdom, or keep your “investment” in the old? A good Christian steward recognizes the inevitable and invests wisely.

The Christmas message is an opportunity to cash into the future. Most of us will never be able to invest all that we have, perhaps because we lack faith. However with the application of a little faith, we can make a proportionate investment in God’s kingdom and that proportionate offering will prove to be most fruitful. There are many opportunities to invest our time, talent and treasure in the kingdom of God, even if it is a simple gift of time spent in prayer, contemplating God’s love for us because He gave us the gift of His Son. Of course this investment of time may very well lead to further investment of self-giving.

No matter where we are in life or what we have to offer as an investment in the kingdom, Christmas offers us many opportunities to draw closer to Him. Christmas makes it easy for us to draw closer because our approachable God has been given to
us as a meek and humble little baby. We are all invited to draw closer, even if we are smelly, disheveled shepherds.