

My Gift



The “wise men” followed the star
because they wanted to find the Christ.

Christ was in **Bethlehem**, yet somehow,
they wound up in **Jerusalem**.

In Jerusalem they had to **reorient** their journey **and** **recommit** their effort.

Their search was (ultimately) successful,
but **not** because it led in a **straight path**
to their **goal!**

Pure motive! YET they still had to exercise a great **determination** to get them through the **detours** and **distractions**.

- 2024
- Future is **unknowable**; therefore, **unpredictable**
- Our JOURNEY of FAITH is a lifelong **pursuit** of God (worship, service)
- Pursuit succeeds only through **commitment**

But if (from that place) you seek the Lord
your God, you will find him if you look for
him with all your heart and with all your soul.

(Deuteronomy 4:29)

But small is the gate and narrow is the road
that leads to LIFE, and only a few find it.

(Matthew 7:14)

COMMITMENT UNDERSTANDS:

1. Even when my motives are poor, events will still **surprise** and **disappoint** me!

2. Because I pursue Christ. Evil (Satan) will be **disturbed** and **defiant** against me!

My **LIFE** is my **GIFT**. But that gift cannot be seen as doing God a “favor.” This is true even if other people **applaud** and **appreciate** my service to God.

The wise men's star/light brought revelation from God and about God.

- God gave that revelation to them because he expected them to come and find the child!

COMMITMENT UNDERSTANDS... God has given me his light because he **expects** me to “come to Christ.”