

THANKSGIVING vs. CHRISTMAS

I must admit... I am one of those crazy people that love the rush of going shopping on "Black Friday" (day after Thanksgiving)!!! But over the past couple of years, I've noticed stores opening earlier and earlier! A couple of years ago Toys 'R' Us started opening at midnight and now this year, several stores are opening at 10pm THANKSGIVING NIGHT!!! We will hardly have time to finish cleaning up from Thanksgiving dinner before we make our pilgrimage out to stand in the seas of endless lines and the bustle of busy traffic! It's like we are in such a rush for the Christmas Holidays, that Thanksgiving is just bulldozed right over. But interestingly, I heard



on the radio that there was a store that is actually refusing to put out Christmas decorations and such till AFTER Thanksgiving is over (Unlike Wal-Mart who starts in October!). They been getting a lot of flak about this, but they've stood their ground. The point is, Thanksgiving is suppose to be about being thank-

ful for all we have, and Christmas has turned into such a "Give-Me, I-Want" type of holiday. And we fly right by the time we are suppose to pause and reflect over all our blessings, and go straight to filling us up with more. Even as Christians, we lose the real meaning of Christmas and make it all about ourselves and material things. We

should take a lesson from John the Baptist who confessed, "He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." It's not about us, but about Jesus Christ. Enjoy all the Christmas festivities as long as you remember the true meaning, but don't pass over Thanksgiving! Let's decrease ourselves, and lift Jesus up more!