

THE THIRD TUESDAY OF ADVENT

Air Rifles and Eternity

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:28-29

What was the Christmas gift you most longed to receive as a child? Did you receive it? If so, do you still possess it?

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Author Jean Shepherd penned a short story about the gift he most longed to receive when he was a kid—a Red Ryder carbine action two-hundred shot range model air rifle. This story became the classic 1983 movie *A Christmas Story*. One reason the nostalgic story continues to resonate with audiences is because we all remember what it is like to hope for a special gift.



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Perhaps there was a bit of a moral in the story about the temporary nature of most Christmas presents when the gun misfired when the hero of the movie, Ralphie, first fired it and ended up breaking his eyeglasses as a result. Most of us can't remember the gifts we received a year or two after the holiday has passed. Once the ribbons are untied and we move into the regularly-scheduled rhythms of our lives, the importance of most of those gifts recede into the background.

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Our Advent journey can recalibrate our desires as we remember that the temporal will be enveloped in the eternal. His kingdom will have no end.

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**Eternal God, you are
unchangeable,
and your kingdom is an eternal
one. From the beginning, you
planned our salvation.**

***FOR FURTHER REFLECTION READ
REVELATION 1:8***