

Jesus – The Light of the World

Isaiah 9:2-7, John 3:19-21, John 1:1-18

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Eric Northrup / Dec. 20, 2020

Christmas is the historical record of God Himself, invading our world in the most shocking, miraculous, mind-boggling way...by becoming a helpless, frail, utterly dependent baby who fits in the palms of your hands, who breathes its first breath of air as the fluid is removed from its lungs, and who ultimately grows up to become the Savior of the World.

Matthew 1:23 “For the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

[Read Isaiah 9:2-7 & John 3:19-21]

Without a proper understanding of the darkness, you will never come to appreciate the light.

What does the Bible say about man’s darkness?

I. Men and Women Pursued Evil Instead of God

John 3:19 “...people loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

Isaiah 9:2 “The people who walked in darkness...” (Gloom, distress, anguish, deep darkness)

Psalms 14:2-3 “The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.”

Jeremiah 2:13 (NIV) “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

II. Men and Women Try to Fix Themselves

Jeremiah 2:13 “...and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

Context of Broken Cisterns

“They took a great deal of pains to hew themselves out cisterns, to dig pits or pools in the earth or rock which they would carry water to, or which should receive the rain; but they proved broken cisterns, false at the bottom, so that they could hold no water. When they came to quench their thirst there they found nothing but mud and mire, and the filthy sediments of a standing lake.”

~ Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume, pg. 1222

“Do more, try harder, and fix yourself” is religion.

“To every human being, sin is the ultimate, undefeatable enemy. It captures and controls us all and there is nothing we can do. It is either the height of arrogance or the depth of delusion to think that you are okay. None of us is okay.”

~ Paul David Tripp, Come Let Us Adore Him, pg. 61

The ramifications of sin are that men and women are stuck in our darkness, unable to save ourselves, and deserving of God’s holy and righteous judgment.

But, do you know what the Good News is? God loves you! He loves you! He says “I still see worth in you!”

This is the beauty and glory of the Christmas story: Christ came into the world to defeat the darkness within our hearts.

John 1:9-11 “The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. ¹¹ He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.”

John 1:14 “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

“God’s response to our rebellion was to give us Himself. He is the great redeeming, transforming gift. He is the rescue. He is the forgiveness. He is the restoration. He is life, hope, peace, and security. There is no salvation apart from Him. There is no deliverance from the presence and power of sin apart from Him. There is no restored relationship with God apart from Him. There is no new heaven and new earth apart from Him. There is no end to sickness and suffering apart from Him. There is no defeat of death apart from Him. There simply is no such thing as redeeming grace and all that it means apart from the willingness of God to give us Himself in the person of the Messiah, Jesus.”

~ Paul David Tripp, Come Let Us Adore Him, pg. 38

John 1:12 “Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:5 “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it!”

“Dear God...

- I confess that I’m a sinner. You see my innermost thoughts and my ugliest parts...and yet you sent Jesus to die for me.
 - I believe that Jesus did for me what no one else could do...to pay the price for my sin and to give me peace with you.
 - Right now, I surrender control of my life to Jesus and submit to Him as my Savior, Lord, and King.
- In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”