

" Jesus: The Light of the World and the Light of Our Lives" Delivered by A Bishop-
Johnson at Nursing Home visit 12/3/17 1:30pm

John 1:1-4; 9-14

John 1:1-4; 9-14 NIV The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

9 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. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

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.

---Begin Sermonette/Devotion-----

Greetings on this Sunday morning. We are delighted to be here with you this morning.

We often come upon the words of John 1 during this time of year. It is one of my favorite Gospels when speaking of the birth of Christ.

See John doesn't begin his story of the birth of Christ with angels, or shepherds, he doesn't even mention Mary and Joseph here.

John's narrative begins with the beginning of all things. John begins with telling us that Jesus Christ was at the beginning of all creation.

At the beginning of the world.

John begins when there is nothing. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God ...” He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

And that is after all what is most important in our reading that of today. That Jesus is light.

It’s important because all humans go through periods of our lives that seem dark, gloomy, challenging.

One only needs to live long enough to find sickness and illness that can seem so dark. But the good news of Christ is that He has overcome the darkness by bringing the light of God

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A light that shines in the dark places of our own lives.

And more important than that, God has overcome darkness, despair, and difficulty

And Jesus has promised in Hebrews 13:5 that “he would never leave nor forsake us”

In the peaks and in the valleys, at Christmas time and at every time, God says He is with us, ready to shine light into the dark areas of our lives

The scripture goes on to say something even more profound that because our Jesus is the creator and the light of the world, to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”—13

Jesus's birth give us the opportunity to never live in the greater darkness of unforgiven sin. Jesus' birth, life, and death, gives us the opportunity to accept Him as Lord, Creator and most importantly as Savior

And once we open our hearts to accept Christ as Savior all the benefits of walking with Him in this life are open to us but more importantly our location in Heaven is assured. to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God never to face a difficult moment without him. God didn't say that He would keep us from all difficulty but that the difficulties would not break His bond with us. HE would be with us to walk with us to make some sense out of our situations.

The message of the scripture today is a reminder that when we are in our own darkness of illness, we need not despair...

As the Psalmist wrote, Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning."

IN the night is darkness, but in the morning the light of Christ is there to shine upon us.

Isa 58:8.....your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

That same Christ that was born on that first Christmas morning long ago, that one whom angels sang about and shepherds and wisemen came to see, asks now that He be born anew in each and every heart.

That same Jesus who was born again on that first Christmas morning, whom wisemen came bearing gifts to, offers us the gifts of His hope peace love joy, and most importantly the greatest gift – the gift of eternal life

Are you in a dark situation this morning? Don't despair. The Lord of Light was born to break the darkness! AMEN.