

“God’s Gift Of Light”

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; 1st John 1: 5 – 10; John 1: 1 – 14; **John 8:12 (Sermon)**

Genesis 1:3 clearly states that God created light.

Light in the Bible is always linked closely with God.

Light is symbolic of purity, truth, knowledge, and joy.

Light is also used as a symbol of God’s blessings.

And in the Bible darkness is always used as a symbol of evil, ignorance, falsehood, sadness, and a lack of hope, which are all the opposite of Godly characteristics.

John 3:19 tells us that man’s nature loves the darkness instead of the light.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19).

In 1st John 1:5 we read that ***“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”***.

The image of light is a powerful description of God.

You see light cannot be contained, light has no shape or form, and we can not confine light in a box.

The image of describing God as light is found throughout the Bible.

Many times in the Old Testament the light was described as the Shikinah Glory.

Since physical truths in the Bible point us to spiritual truths I want us to spend the next few minutes considering the importance and the blessings of God’s Gift Of Light.

In John 8:12 Jesus clearly stated ***“I am the light of the world”***.

This is a familiar verse to most of us but have you ever seriously thought about the analogies of Jesus being The Light Of The World and the benefits Jesus bring to us as The Light Of The World.

If you look in the dictionary, the first definition for light is *“something that makes vision possible.”*

Light is necessary for us to see.

Light is the opposite of darkness.

Animals that live in a total dark environment are blind.

People who are confined in dark prisons or mines lose their sight.

Without light we are hopelessly blind; blind to our surroundings, blind to our situations and circumstances, and even blind to ourselves.

You see light makes it possible for us to see things as they really are.

Before Jesus' earthly ministry most of the world was spiritually blind.

The world was spiritually blind because the world rejected God.

Mankind lost sight of who we are, where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going.

Jesus came as light to help a blind world regain its spiritual eyesight.

In John 12:46 Jesus said ***"I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness."***

And in John 9:39-41 Jesus said, ***"I came into this world, that those who do not see may see."***

The truth is if you push Jesus out of your life, you will become spiritually blind.

That is what the world has done.

Romans 1:21 tells us, ***"For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations and their foolish heart was darkened."***

Light also brings understanding:

1st John 5:20 tells us; ***"And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding."***

Through Jesus, we know and understand we are created by a God who loves us and that God wants to have a personal relationship with us.

Through Jesus we know and understand that our sin and rebellion severs our relationship with our creator God.

We know and understand that we can regain that relationship with God both now and forever through Christ Jesus.

We know right from wrong.

We know and understand the marvelous place God has prepared for those who want to walk in His light and we know the terrible destiny of those who reject Jesus The Light of The World.

Thanks to God's amazing grace, we can sing *"I once was blind but now I see."*

Jesus The Light Of The World shines and gives us understanding and guidance when we are confused.

Light is necessary for life.

Just as sunlight is essential for physical life, Jesus the true light is vital for spiritual life.

Just as Jesus is the giver of all physical life Jesus is the provider of spiritual life.

Spiritual life can be found in no other than in Jesus because Jesus is life.

John 14:6 records Jesus words; ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."***

And in 1st John 5:12 we read, ***"He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."***

John 3:36 says ***"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."***

Just as light removes stains and purifies.

Jesus The Light Of The World removes the spiritual stain of sin from our souls.

1st John 1:7 says, ***"the blood of Jesus...cleanses us from all sin."***

Even after we become Christians, the continued cleansing of Jesus is necessary.

Even though we strive to obey God's will, we all stumble and sin from time to time.

But the good news of Jesus found in 1st John 1:9, ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

It is truly good news to know that when we truly repent not only is our soul purified but our conscience is also cleansed of all guilt.

Just as light brings healing to physical wounds, the light of Jesus' love and compassion brings healing to emotional wounds of the heart and mind.

When Jesus preached His first sermon, Jesus declared that the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1 spoke of His ministry.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted.”

Psalm 34:18 states; ***“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”***

And Psalm 147:3 states;” ***He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”***

Jesus is the great physician.

Next light always overcomes darkness.

Darkness can not co-exist with light.

Darkness can not overcome light.

The flame of one small candle chases the darkness of an entire room away.

Jesus The Light Of The World comes into the darkness of our life and overcomes the hold that evil has on our on life.

Jesus says that those who walk in the light shall never walk in darkness.

Once Jesus The Light Of The World has shined in a believer’s life the darkness can not overcome it.

As we battle evil, Jesus shines and Jesus overcomes the force of evil in our life.

Light also dispels fear and light gives us a feeling of security.

That’s why we light our streets, our homes, and that is why we have night lights.

When you have Jesus, The Light Of The World, in your life, you do not need to fear anything.

Jesus offers protection and true security.

Nothing can unknowingly penetrate the wall of defense which God builds around His own.

In Psalm 37:4 we find this wonderful promise ***“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and He delivers them”***.

And in Hebrews 13:5-6, ***“He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,’*** so that we confidently say, ***‘The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do***

to me?’’

We do not need to fear Satan who is our spiritual enemy.

2nd Thessalonians 3:3 assures us, ***“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”***

James 4:7 tells us; ***“resist the devil and he will flee from you”***.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and it is the job of the shepherd to guard and protect the sheep.

Jesus said; ***“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”*** (John 10:27-29)

Then in Romans 8:38-39 we read, ***“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

Light is also necessary for growth.

Just as sunlight is essential for plants and animals to grow to maturity, Jesus The Light Of The World is necessary for our spiritual growth.

You can not grow spiritually unless you are not consistently studying and applying God’s word to daily situations.

Think back over the past year and ask yourself if you have grown closer to The Lord since last Christmas.

Are you more excited about your walk with The Lord than you were last year?

If not you need to spend more time letting Jesus The Light Of The World flood your soul.

We are to be people of light even though there is darkness all around us.

God wants us to be people who see beyond the brokenness of this world and God wants us to fully embrace the gift of His Son Jesus.

Matthew 4:16 tells us that the coming of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy given in Isaiah 9:2, ***“the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death; a light dawned.”***

God’s word to us tonight is crystal clear.

Jesus, The Light Of The World, has been revealed and each one of us is forced to respond in belief or in unbelief.

God gave us the gift of light when Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

Jesus The Light Of The World came into the world to give us life and to be with us.

Jesus, The Light Of The World, shines upon all people and His light divides the human race.

Those who choose to live in the darkness respond in unbelief and run from the light.

On the other hand, those who embrace the light become children of God and will enjoy all of the blessings of our creator God both now and throughout eternity. (John1:12).

When electric light bulbs came into the world the way we live was drastically changed.

Similarly when Jesus, The Light of the World, came into the world millions of lives were changed and the way life was viewed and the way life was lived was also drastically changed.

Christmas reminds us that God gave us the gift of hope, peace, joy, love, and light when He gave us Jesus.

So I ask you; have your sins been washed in the blood of Jesus and have you asked Jesus to cleanse you from all uprightness?

Have you responded to God's invitation to experience Jesus as The Light Of The World?

Have you allowed Jesus to shine brightly in your life and to penetrate the darkness surrounding you?

Are you experiencing the victorious abundant life that Jesus offers? (John 10:10)

You see we all have a choice we can enjoy walking in The Light each day or we can choose to grope around in darkness.

This is a choice all of us must make each day and throughout the each day?

AMEN