




# Jesus is the Light

The true light that gives  
light to every man was  
coming into the world.

John 1:9 (niv)



Christmas lights. They stand out as pinpoints of light on a backdrop of black in the cold New England night. Some dangle from rooftops while others spiral up column and post; still others drape evergreen boughs, line a row of hedges, or envelop a holly bush or boxwood. A bare, seemingly dead branch springs to life with a multitude of color and

brilliance—a stark contrast to the chill of winter's gloom.

A pinpoint of light in the darkness. So small. So insignificant in the vast charcoal sea of shadows. Yet these individual sparkles join together to illumine the night and speak of Christmas. Some may see their glow and merely hear their call to a season of gifts and gatherings. But for others these twinkling lights hearken to the joy, hope, and glory of the true Light of the world whose advent we celebrate. Nevertheless, their shimmer of Christmas cheer pales in comparison to the magnificence of the one of whom their brilliance heralds.

The true grandeur of Christ is beyond words; but perhaps Zechariah came close when through the Spirit's inspiration he prophesied of *"...the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."* (Luke 1:78-79) Such is the splendor of Christ—the merciful light of God who exposes the shadows of deception, who brings clarity to obscurity, who exposes sin and offers in its place nourishment, life, direction, and purpose.

And so by the wisdom of God the Light became flesh. A little babe in a manger, so small and vulnerable—so seemingly insignificant in the vast, overwhelming sea of human turmoil and brokenness. From the delicate mortal flesh of infancy stepped the immortal Hope of nations and Son of Glory. Have you paused to ponder the Christ child this Christmas? Have you sought to savor the excellence of his worth?

Consider his very nature, mighty attributes, and prevailing work.

*...in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.* (Hebrew 1:1-3)

Marvel at his all satisfying guidance and provision.

*In him was life and that life was the light of men* (John 1:4). *The true light that gives light to every man had come into the world* (John 1:9).



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*You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light...I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who*

*believes in me should stay in darkness. (John 12:35-36, 46)*

Serve as a humble witness to the glorious Light of life.

*There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. (John 1:6-8)*

This is the endeavor of the Christian life—to seek, savor, and share the riches of Christ. Jesus, the Light of the world, proclaims a mystery to us, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16).

The Light of the world names all those who would follow him “the light of the world”—albeit imperfect reflections of his glory. Certainly we are but a glimmer of the rising sun of our Saviour. But just as the first rays of dawn herald the breaking of day, so we too proclaim his coming in word and deed. Let us join together as pinpoints of light in the darkness. So small. So insignificant in the charcoal sea of life’s sufferings. Yet may we find ourselves captivated by his glory, satisfied by his grace, challenged by his call, emboldened by his empowerment, and impassioned to share of his Good News.

A neighbor speaking of our home’s Christmas lights recently mentioned, “*It’s as if your whole house is glowing.*” What a picture—a home visibly standing in stark contrast to the backdrop of darkness, despair, and gloom of this world’s hurts. I pray that it would clearly glow with the truth and love of Christ. As brothers and sisters, may our lights join together, as a greater spiritual family, to illumine the night and speak of Christmas—of the one who came and lives forevermore. Amen.

In response to Christ’s immeasurable worth and grace, please consider a special Christmas gift to God’s work through His church. For a gift of any amount, include a request for a free copy of a special book, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*. What better time of the year, at Christmas, to open our eyes to the glory of Christ and our hearts to the value of savoring his infinite worth!

Blessings, Pastor Scott

*Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service of Candles & Carols 12/24 @ 5pm*