

**Title:** The True Christmas Light

**Passage:** John 1:6-13

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Summary:

I. You are not the Light

II. Jesus is the true Light

III. Believe and receive the Light.

Key Truths:

- How are we light? We reflect the true light of God.
- How can we be good witnesses? We testify to the truth of Christ. Our witness is not dependent upon us and our ability. We are not the point. Jesus is the point.
- Through Christ, we see the truth of ourselves as sinners and can find forgiveness through Him.
- Receive Christ by receiving Him. Believe what Jesus says about Himself.
  - Jesus died for your sins.
  - Jesus rose again for your justification
  - Jesus intercedes for you everyday in heaven.
  - Jesus is coming back again for you.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- In what ways have you reflected Christ poorly? What can you change going forward?
- In what ways can you receive or welcome Christ into your life?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

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**Passage:**

John 1:6-13 (LSB)

“There was a man having been sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to bear witness about the Light.

There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens everyone. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

**EXPOSITION**

**Overview**

- I. You are not the Light
- II. Jesus is the true Light
- III. Believe and receive the Light.

## **I. YOU ARE NOT THE LIGHT**

### **John 1:6**

***“There was a man having been sent from God, whose name was John.***

Tradition: "Silent Night"

- Truth: the night where Jesus came into the world actually broke centuries of silence.
- Even in advance of Jesus' arrival, people were talking and wondering what was to happen.

### **Luke 1:8-14** (angel appears to Zechariah for John the Baptist's birth)

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

### **Luke 2:8-14** (angels appearing to shepherds)

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

### **Luke 3:15-16** (John the Baptist makes clear a Greater One is to come)

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

### **Luke 1:59-63**

And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his

father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered.

- John: meaning = "God is grace"
- As John was to live his life, people would be reminded that God is one of grace.

### **John 1:7**

***He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, so that all might believe through him.***

### **Matthew 5:14-15**

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

- How are we light?
  - We reflect the true light of God.
- How can we be good witnesses?
  - We testify to the truth of Christ.
  - Our witness is not dependent upon us and our ability.
    - We are not the point. Jesus is the point.

### **John 1:8**

***He was not the Light, but he came to bear witness about the Light."***

- We are not the light. We are only to reflect Jesus, who is the true light.

## **II. CHRIST IS THE TRUE LIGHT**

### **John 1:9**

***"There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens everyone.***

- Jesus is the One true Light.
- Light is a special, unique phenomenon.
  - Light is instantaneous
  - Light is beauty

### **Ecclesiastes 11:7**

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

- beauty is that of which we want to be worthy of to receive.
  - Light exposes / is enlightening.

John 3:19-21

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

- Through Christ, we see the truth of ourselves as sinners and can find forgiveness through Him.

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Isaiah 42:6-7

“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Malachi 4:2a

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

**John 1:10**

***He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”***

Colossians 1:15-16

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

John 12:50

And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- Eternal life is Christ Jesus

1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

**John 1:11**

***“He came to what was His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.”***

- Jesus as Lord of creation came into the world, but they did not welcome Him.

### **III. RECEIVE THE LIGHT; BELIEVE IN THE LIGHT.**

**John 1:12**

***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,”***

- Is Christianity exclusive?
  - "as many as receive Him"
    - All are welcome to receive eternal life through Christ.

"He gave the right to become children of God"

Hebrews 2:11

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

2 Timothy 2:12a

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

- In Christ, we are His child. We are co-heirs with Christ. We will reign with Him.

"Believe in His name"

- you receive Christ by receiving Him.
- Believe what Jesus says about Himself.
  - Jesus died for your sins.
  - Jesus rose again for your justification
  - Jesus intercedes for you everyday in heaven.
  - Jesus is coming back again for you.

**John 1:13**

***“who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”***

- "Not of blood"
  - We are not God's child by any ethnic heritage or by anyone else's faith.
- "Nor of the will of the flesh"
  - Cannot manipulate salvation out of fear or force.
- "Nor of the will of man"
  - Cannot be saved out of anything or our own effort.
- "But of God"
  - God alone provides grace upon grace upon grace.

John 3:27

John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,