

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

A Great Light

SERIES

DATE

12/8/2024

KEY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2

SYNOPSIS

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ A Great Light

*There's a light at the end of the tunnel
You light up my life
Turn on a light and the cockroaches scatter
She had a smile that could light up a room
I was confused but then it dawned on me (the light came on)
Aristotle Onassis... It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.
A. Lincoln... I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have.
Plato... We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.
Ray Comfort... The more a nation gets into darkness, the more it's going to hate the light; the more it's going to run from the light.
JFK... We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us thru that darkness to a safe and sane future.
MLK... Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Rick Warren... Living in the light of eternity changes your priorities.*

☞ Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, **darkness** was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 **And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.**

God created light before he created the Sun. The earth was in darkness, but God spoke and there was light. Then, the rest of creation took place. Light came first, then plants, animals, and humans; the rest of life. Our world is dependent on light.

Britannica... [We know the speed of light is considered a fundamental constant of nature, at 186,282 miles per second.] No single answer to the question "What is light?" satisfies the many contexts in which light is experienced, explored, and exploited. [Light is a form of electromagnetic radiation that travels in waves. It can also be described as being made up of particles called photons, which carry energy and momentum. Light exhibits both wave-like and particle-like properties, a phenomenon known as wave-particle duality.] Light from the Sun warms the Earth, drives global weather patterns, and initiates the life-sustaining process of photosynthesis. On the grandest scale, light's interactions with matter have helped shape the structure of the universe. Indeed, light provides a window on the universe, from cosmological to atomic scales. Almost all of the information about the rest of the universe reaches Earth in the form of electromagnetic radiation. By interpreting that radiation, astronomers can glimpse the earliest epochs of the universe, measure the general expansion of the universe, and determine the chemical composition of stars.

This time of the year, there are lights up everywhere – trees, light posts, rooftops and eaves. We are looking forward to Christmas, the birthday celebration of Jesus. Isaiah prophesied about that.

☞ **Isaiah 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**



☞ **Darkness** refers to spiritual darkness which ultimately leads to death. The word is also used to refer metaphorically to **trouble, judgment, prison and evil**. Isaiah sort of doubles down here by referring to the shadow of death, which figuratively means distress or tremendous danger. He's describing an extremely dark situation. Without Jesus, the world is a very dark place. Just as the world was very dark until God spoke light into existence, so is the human heart without Jesus.

☞ **Darkness** in our hearts and minds **separates us from the presence of God**. The human soul without Jesus is a very dark place. The Bible says those who reject God's truth will live in great anguish and darkness. It will be a darkness of their own making leading to the judgment of God.

☞ **Darkness** can also mean an **absence of moral values**. It was the people of Israel who were walking in darkness when the Light came into the world. God's chosen people were stuck in the dark. The people were **blinded to the truth**. It's a caution for all of us.

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 3:19

Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Not many of us enjoy the darkness and, in fact, as little children we request a night light to comfort and reassure us. (I had a covered wagon night light) We want to know that all is well, that we are safe, and that nothing will catch us by surprise or threaten our safety. Jesus has come to end the threat of darkness and to usher us into a new and wonderful light, the light of God's love, mercy and grace.

You would think that people who find themselves stuck in darkness would want to be set free from it, but that is not the case. We seem determined to bump into things, groping in the dark, reaching out in an effort to find our own way without the aid of a light. I'm sure you have all done this too. I know I have, I have tried to walk around in the dark only to bang my knee or smash my toe as I went. Jesus wants bring light into our lives so that we can avoid that pain forever.

☞ **Jesus is The Light of the world (John 8:12)**. Jesus came to earth and there was an explosion of light. When his birth was announced to the shepherds, the glory of the Lord shone around them (**Luke 2:9**). When he came, the skies overhead were lit up by a wondrous star (**Matthew 2:2**). During his life on earth Jesus brought light and life everywhere he went. And when He rose from the dead, it was at the moment of sunrise.

Instead of the darkness of death, the Lord gives the light of life. Instead of the darkness of ignorance, the Lord gives the light of knowledge. Instead of the darkness of sin, He gives the light of salvation.

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the ☞ light of **the knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Christ.



When you have been in a truly dark place, having light hit your eyes can cause you real discomfort and you will open your eyes only a little because you cannot bear the brilliance. But as you continue in the light you will find your vision will adjust and you will see things clearly, things that you could not possibly see in the dark.

The light will allow you to do something you could not do while in the darkness. You will be able to walk without hitting things; you will be able to see ahead of you a path that was previously concealed by the darkness. You will notice that you are not alone as you may have thought. You will find a guide who will protect you, comfort you and lead you through all the dangerous terrain. You may not avoid all the dangers ahead of you but you will now have help and a clear vision of what to look out for.

Jesus is the light that we all seek. This Light of Jesus is:

☞ **A Disclosing Light.** It reveals what is hidden.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.

Some listening today need to be reminded that God sees everything.

☞ **A Directing Light.** It guides us.

John 12:35-36 ...The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. 36 Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.

Some of you need a clear direction in life. Jesus is your guiding light.

☞ **A Delightful Light.** It lifts us up.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his **wonderful** light.

Some of you have been discouraged or distraught. Jesus is your uplifting light.

☞ **A Dependable Light.**

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who **does not change** like shifting shadows.

Some of you have been let down many times. Jesus is your steady, dependable light.

☞ **An Available Light.**

John 1:9 The true light that gives light to every man was **coming into the world.**

Revelation 21:23-24 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 **The nations** will walk by its light...

The light of Jesus is available to you. He stands with open arms welcoming you into the light of his glory. You don't have to stay in the dark, living in fear and uncertainty. I don't know your circumstances, but I do know that Jesus is the light by which you can be freed from whatever darkness



has you a prisoner. Open the door that separates you from Him today and walk in the light. You don't need to suffer any longer, you don't need to cry out in pain from all the bumps and bangs life has given you. Step into the light of His love.

Do you need direction in life? Jesus will be your guiding light.
Have you been down and discouraged? Jesus is the light that will lift your soul.
Have you been let down by others one too many times? Jesus is the light you can always count on.
Step into His light.

☞ If you already know the light of the Lord, then make sure to **live as a child of the light**.

Ephesians 5:8-9

you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

☞ **Goodness** = virtue; morality; generosity

☞ **Righteousness** = right conduct; purity of life; obedience to God's will

☞ **Truth** = without pretense or deceit

☞ **Ephesians 5:10**

find out what pleases the Lord.

Let's all choose to walk in the light today. If you're struggling with sin, that's a form of darkness. Jesus is the antidote. Get closer to Him. If you're uncertain about the future, Jesus is the guiding light. Get closer to Him. If you're struggling with right living – being good and generous; being pure and obedient to God; if you're confused about what's really true and right, get closer to Jesus. He is the light.

Jesus really is the answer. All of the troubles we wrestle with can be resolved through Him. It's the theme we always come back to. You just need more of Jesus. In this dark world; in your dark thoughts; you need the light of Jesus. Step into His light. Walk in His light. Jesus is the Light.