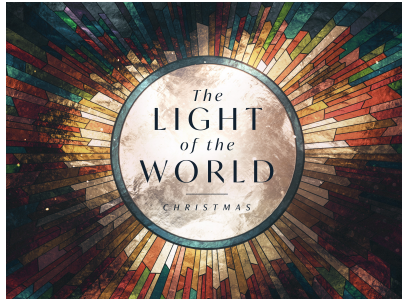


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Light that Changes Everything

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
Christmas Eve - December 24, 2023



- **The presence of light changes things...**

John 8:12 "I AM the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have light that leads to life."

"The world is a dark place, and we will never find our way or see reality unless Jesus is our Light." Tim Keller - Hidden Christmas

- **The Christmas story forever changes reality.**

Luke 1:1-4 (NLT) "Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught."

Luke 2:8-14 (NLT) That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Saviour—yes, the Messiah [the Christ], the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Big Idea: Jesus Christ is the Light that changes our reality forever.

- **We don't need to fear.**

"They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!"

¹ John 4:18 (ESV) "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

- **We have Good News that brings great joy.**

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Saviour—yes, the Messiah [the Christ], the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

- **We have a Saviour King who understands us.**

¹² "And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

- **We have peace with God through Christ.**

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible. — Corrie Ten Boom



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

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impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Light that Changes Everything
#4 of 4 - December 10, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at John 1 where we saw Jesus as the Light Fulfilled. In what way were you able to reflect and apply these truths this week?

- 2) Read Luke 2:8-14. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?

- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?

- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?

- 5) How does the birth of Jesus change reality forever? How does this encourage and challenge you today?

- 6) Read 1 John 4:18. What does this tell us about fear and the solution to fear?

- 7) Which of the 4 points from the message is the most significant for you and why?

- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message and through His Word? What does it mean for you to embrace the Good News as your good news?

- 9) What action step is God asking of you this Christmas?



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The Light that Changes Everything
#4 of 4 - December 24, 2023

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- 2) Read Luke 2:8-14. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?

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- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?

- 5) How does the birth of Jesus change reality forever? How does this encourage and challenge you today?

- 6) Read 1 John 4:18. What does this tell us about fear and the solution to fear?

- 7) Which of the 4 points from the message is the most significant for you and why?

- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message and through His Word? What does it mean for you to embrace the Good News as your good news?

- 9) What action step is God asking of you this Christmas?