



Light of the World

Light of the World Series

Part 3 - Candlelight Service

December 18, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 1:18-25, ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people

from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

Today, we will be continuing our Series on The Light of The World and during our time together this morning, it is my goal to discuss three specific points that Light may have visited but there it did not remain... You see it was this Light that wielded within His hands the power to heal and to restore; the hands that fashioned the universe and flung the stars into their celestial sockets were the same hands that touched blinded eyes, embraced the leper and endured the shame of the Cross! And it is this light today that we testify of and testify for because not only is He the light of the World, He is the light of our Salvation! Thus our first point for our time together!

1. The Light of the World may have been born in a Manger but the Manger is Now Vacant!

- a. The Gospel narratives unveils to us the fact that 3 wise men from the far east traveled by the navigational directive of a star in the heavens and it was the following of this celestial light that introduced them to the eternal light! And it is that light that I want to testify of today!
- b. The Light of a star might have led the wise men from the cradle of civilization but the Light of the World still guides wise men from the bonds of sin to the liberty of His Saving Grace! It was this Light, born of a virgin womb, that would guide a wayward humanity home!
- c. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 1:20-23, “²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).”

- d. He is known as Emmanuel! He was and is God with us! The Light of the starts may have been the markers of the heavens but the Light of All of Eternity was birthed into the darkness of this world because it was this light that was in the beginning and will be at the very end because He is Very God of Very God!
- e. Remember, The Light of the World may have been born in a Manger but the Manger is Vacant this morning! He's not there anymore!
- f. Point #2...

2. The Light of the World may have been Crucified on a Cruel Cross but the Cross is Currently Bare!

- a. Colossians 2:9-15, ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him,

having forgiven us all our trespasses,¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

- b. Church family, The Light of Heaven may have been nailed to a cruel cross by the darkness of this present age but that darkness did not wield the power to keep Him upon the Cross!
- c. You see, the Darkness may have thought it overcame the Light but the Darkness was deceived by Death because even death did not have the last word!
- d. The Light of the World may have been nailed to a cross but now he is hailed as the savior of the world!
- e. The world may have cried out to Nail Him but All of Heaven Hails Him as King Eternal!!!! And His Name is Jesus!
- f. Remember, The Light of the World may have been Crucified on a Cruel Cross but the Cross is Bare this morning! He's not there anymore!
- g. Point #3...

3. The Light of the World may have been Laid in a Borrowed Tomb but the Tomb is Now Uninhabited!

- a. When darkness threw a party, when Powers and Principalities celebrated the victory of death over the messiah, when Demons and fallen angels rejoiced; Hell may have done its worst but Heaven still had the Last Say So! The King still had one more move!
- b. 1 Corinthians 2:6-8, “⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
- c. The Light of Heaven was birthed into the darkness of this world and then in death, the light was placed in the darkness of the tomb; both the world and the tomb learned something that day.
Darkness is temporary and Victory is coming!
- d. Dear Hearts, the darkness of this world couldn't extinguish the light, the darkness of the tomb couldn't extinguish the light, the darkness of men's souls couldn't extinguish the light!
- e. And no power in Heaven, on earth or below the earth has the power to extinguish it either!

- f. Remember, The Light of the World may have been laid in a borrowed tomb but the Tomb is uninhabited this morning! He's not there anymore!
- g. In closing Point #4...

4. The Light of the World may have been born in a Manger, Crucified on a Cruel Cross, and Laid in a Borrowed Tomb but the Throne of Heaven is Occupied for all Eternity!

- a. Ephesians 1:19-23, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”
- b. Let me tell you about him this morning! The manger wasn't destined to be his eternal dwelling, the cross wasn't prophetically determined to be his eternal burden and the borrowed tomb was positioned to be his eternal dwelling!

- c. The Cross couldn't hold him, the Grave couldn't stop him and the Death, it wasn't enough! I'm talking about Jesus this morning! The Bright and Morning Star!
- d. 2 Corinthians 4:5-6, **"⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."**
- e. At His Birth, He is God with Us!
- f. At His Cross, He is God for Us!
- g. And at the birthing of His Church, He is God in Us!
- h. Remember, The Light of the World may have been Born in a Manger, Crucified on a Cruel Cross, and Laid in a Borrowed Tomb but the Throne of Heaven is Occupied for all Eternity!
- i. And my question for us today is this: He is on the Throne in Heaven but is He seated upon the Throne of your heart this morning? Do you know Him? Have you allowed the Light of Christ to invade your broken humanity to illuminate your soul and redeem you from the clutches of sin?