



**FEBRUARY 8, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart**

## **Jesus Changes Everything** *Darkness to Light*

**Scripture:** John 1:4-9; Isaiah 9:2; Ephesians 5:8-14; Matthew 5:14-16

**Spotlight:** Jesus doesn't manage darkness—He overcomes it with His light.

**Summary:** From the prophetic promise of Isaiah to the opening words of John 1, Scripture declares a decisive truth: Jesus is the Light that overcomes darkness. Darkness is not merely the absence of light—it is the condition of a world separated from God by sin. Yet into that darkness, God sent His Son. Jesus does not manage darkness, negotiate with it, or coexist with it—He defeats it.

John proclaims that life is found in Christ, and that life, His life, our life in Christ, shines as light no darkness can extinguish. Isaiah exposes it, Jesus embodies it, Paul explains it and we experience it. Once we were in darkness, but now, in Christ, we walk in the light and become light. Salvation is not merely a change in behavior; it is a transformation of identity. All things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Christ calls us out of darkness and invites us to walk in the light—producing with our lives what is good, right, and true.

But the gospel does not stop with personal transformation. Jesus declares that those who follow Him become the light of the world. The Light that saves us now shines through us. The local church, and every believer within it, is God's visible "lighted" witness in a darkened world—reflecting Christ through faithful obedience, holy living, and bold love.

Jesus changes everything. He calls us by name, invites us out of the shadowy darkness, and sends us back into the dark world—not as people living in darkness, but as people who carry His light, the light of the world.

## I. Light Extinguishes Darkness

### John 1:4–9 NLT

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

“The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone” (v.4). Darkness is not just the absence of light; in Scripture, it represents sin, confusion, fear, and separation from God.

Darkness does not *negotiate* with the light or *coexisted* with it. John says, “*The darkness can never extinguish it*” (v.5). Light doesn’t argue with darkness—it simply shows up and wins. Jesus doesn’t come to improve our darkness; He comes to replace it with His life.

The true Light has come into the world, and He shines for everyone. No one is too far from God. No life is too dim. When Jesus enters, darkness loses its grip and light reigns.

## II. Walk Out of the Darkness and Into the Light

### Isaiah 9:2

The people who walk in darkness  
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness,  
a light will shine.

Isaiah speaks to a people who had grown accustomed to darkness. It wasn’t just around them—it was shaping how they lived. Yet into that hopeless

landscape comes a promise: *“Those who walk in darkness will see a great light.”*

Notice the movement. They were walking in darkness—daily, habitual, familiar. *But God doesn't abandon them there. **A light dawns.*** Dawn doesn't happen all at once, but it is unmistakable. It signals a new day, a new direction, a new hope.

Jesus is that dawning light. When Jesus steps into a life, death and despair do not get the final word. Fear doesn't rule the future. The presence of Christ announces that night is ending and morning has come.

### III. Light Produces what is Good and Right and True

#### Ephesians 5:8–14

8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! 9 For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. 12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. 13 But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, 14 for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

Scripture calls us to respond: *“Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.”* Light exposes what darkness hides. **It reveals what needs to change**—but always for the purpose of *freedom*, not shame.

Then comes the invitation: *“Awake, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”* Jesus doesn't whisper vague hope. He calls you by name and invites you to step fully into the life He has already secured for you.

### IV. You Are Light in a World of Darkness

#### Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

**Next Steps:** “Step out of the shadows and *into the light.*”

**Life Application:**

1. Where have you been tempted to believe that darkness is stronger than light—in your past, your habits, or your circumstances?
2. What does it look like for you personally to trust that Jesus doesn't negotiate with darkness but overcomes it completely?
3. How does believing that Christ's light is victorious change the way you face fear, shame, or ongoing struggles today?
4. According to Ephesians 5:8, what is the difference between *living in darkness* and *walking as children of light*?
5. Is there an area of your life you've kept hidden—out of fear, guilt, or comfort—that God is calling into the light?
6. What practical step could you take this week to move from secrecy to honesty before God or trusted believers?
7. When you examine your daily choices, what fruit do they most often produce—goodness, righteousness, and truth, or something else?
8. How does time in God's Word and prayer expose what pleases the Lord and shape your desires?
9. Where might God be inviting you to stop “blending in” and start living differently because His light now lives in you?
10. Who has God intentionally placed in your life right now who is living in darkness and needs the light of Christ?
11. What fears or excuses most often keep you from letting your light shine openly?
12. How can your words, actions, and attitude this week point others to Jesus rather than to yourself?

ChatGPT was used in part during the development of this sermon guide by Dr. James M. Stewart for First Baptist Church Gulfport.