



## THE DARKNESS WITHIN

“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. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.” - Isaiah 9:2,6-7

### WHERE'S THE KING?

Matthew 2

- Herod the king
- \_\_\_\_\_ the king

### A PROFILE OF DARKNESS Eph 2:1-3, Rom. 1-3, Mat. 5:3; 19:16-30

1. Dead in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to an alien power
3. By nature, children of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ enemies of God –Rom. 5:10; 8:7-8, Ex. 34:6–7

“The doctrine of original sin is the only empirically verifiable doctrine of the Christian faith” - Reinhold Niebuhr.

**BEHOLD THE LIGHT!** John 1:29, Matthew 1:21, Romans 5:6–11, Colossians 2:13-14, Romans 7:15–20

1. \_\_\_\_\_ for the way out- 1 Corinthians 10:12–14.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ sin- Mat. 5:27–30, Rom. 6:12–14, Col. 3:5–11.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - Isaiah 59:1–1 John 1:9, James 5:16.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - Mat. 18:15-35, Luke 18:14, Ps. 138: 6.

*The first link between my soul and Christ is, not my goodness, but my badness; not my merit, but my misery; not my standing, but my falling; not my riches, but my need. He comes to visit His people, yet not to admire their beauties, but to remove their deformities; not to reward their virtues, but to forgive their sins.*  
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” - 2 Corinthians 5:21

## DIGGING DEEPER

Questions and reflections for further study:

1. What was Herod’s main problem with the birth of Jesus?
2. Do you think that we all have “little Herods living in us?”
3. What are some of the implications of Christ being the king of one’s life?
4. Which parts of “A profile of Darkness” are the most difficult for you to see in humanity?
5. What do we learn about God’s character when he reveals himself in Exodus 34:6-7?
6. What are some of the affects of our sin on our church, our community, and us?
7. What are some of the ways we can help each other fight against sin?
8. What could be some of the benefits of confessing sin to one another as James 5:16 teaches?
9. How is repentance a gift of God for our growth?