



DARKNESS 1 - FALLEN

Series Layout...		
12/03	Paul	Darkness 1: Corporate Fallenness
12/10	Matt	Darkness 2: Individual Sin
12/17	Paul	Darkness to Light
12/24	Matt	Light of the World
12/24	Paul	Lights of the World

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 [2] 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... [6] 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. [7] 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.

"It's DARK NOW, WATCH FOR THE LIGHT."

- 1) The world is dark in two ways: it is full of _____ & ignorance.
- 2) _____ describes someone or something spiritually and morally corrupt. (*Gen. 3:17-19 Romans 8:19-22*)

Isaiah 8:19-22 [19] And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? [20] To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. [21] They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. [22] And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

3) If we look to the earth & human resources, the _____ only gets worse.

Matthew 4:12-17 [12] Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. [13] And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, [14] so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: [15] "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— [16] the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." [17] From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

4) Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the _____ of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (*John 8:12*)

DIGGING DEEPER

Questions and reflections for your own personal or group study.

1. In what ways have you seen darkness in the form of evil?
2. In what ways have you seen darkness in the form of ignorance?
3. How have you experienced "spiritual darkness" in your own life (before you knew Christ?) What was the transition like from darkness to light?
4. In what ways does "It's dark now, watch for the light," encourage you or give you hope?
5. Explain how the "fallenness of humanity" has had an impact on the whole world?
6. Does this help explain natural disaster to you? Why or why not?
7. In what ways do we "look to the earth" to solve the problem of darkness?
8. How is Jesus, light?