

The Light of the World

Isaiah 9:2 (NIV84) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 60:1–3 (NIV84) ¹ “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Matthew 4:16 (NIV84) the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

1 John 1:4–5 (NIV84) ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

I love everything about Christmas! I’m the opposite of Scrooge.

One of my favorite ingredients of Christmas decorations are the lights. I love coming home on a dark, gloomy afternoon and having our Christmas lights radiating warmth and joy.

Light is a perfect illustration of our Incredible God.

Light illustrates the dawn of God’s love, hope, peace, and joy that entered the world through the birth of Christ at Christmas.

This morning I want to share three observations about the properties of light and finish with an encouragement toward daily application.

I. Light Illuminates

“Light is electromagnetic radiation that shows properties of both energy waves and particles called photons.”

A. Illuminating Light Exposes Darkness

The message of Christmas is the message of God conquering darkness.

Matthew 4:16 (NIV84) the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

[bring in some of the information from “The Light of God’s Love Changed the World.” Matthew is very precise at choosing his words as he paints contrasts... the darkness of Herod with the light of Christ.]

Absolute darkness illustration – time I was in the cave tour, and they turned off the lights.

Darkness flees at 186,000 mps when light arrives.

B. Illuminating Light Reveals Truth

Isaiah 42:6–7 (NIV84) ⁶ “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, ⁷ to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

John 8:12 (NIV84) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

God reveals his character, his love, his truth, his desire for our best, and how precious we are to Him.

II. Light is Beautiful and Mysterious

Reflection of light that I saw when I was steelhead fishing.

Psalms 104:1–2 (NIV84) ¹ Praise the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. ² He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent

1 Timothy 6:16 (NIV84) (God) is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Visible Light is .0035 of one percent of the total light spectrum. That could be illustrated by a stick stretching from Los Angeles to New York, the light visible to the human eye would be the size of one dime in that distance.

We “see through a glass dimly.”

My dream of seeing a glimpse of heaven.

III. Light is Life Giving

Illustration of the difference of how Malora and I approach our morning routines.

John 1:4 (NIV84) In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

[The theme of John... that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ... so that you may have true life.] That life is illustrated throughout the Gospel of John as light.

John 8:12 (NIV84) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Psalms 36:9 (NIV84) For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

IV. God's Light Now Shines through His Church – Advent in Us

A. Walk in God's Light

Ephesians 5:8–11 (NIV84) ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

1 John 1:7 (NIV84) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

B. Reflect God's Light

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV84) ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV84) ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Conclusion

The earthly observer didn't notice a thing different the day Jesus was born, but the spirit world was dramatically shaken to its very core as the light from heaven began to dawn. Nothing would ever be the same again.

Jesus' first advent sent ripples through the corridor of time.

Christmas makes all the difference in the world!

My past is forgiven, my present problems can be managed, and my future is guaranteed.

Application Points:

- What is an area of darkness that needs exposed to God's light? It could be fear, worry, hurts or habits, sickness, financial struggles, inner turmoil, etc.
- What is a fresh understanding about God's splendor and glory that is being revealed through his word right now in your life?
- How can you allow God's light to bring healing and life in you and your family this Christmas season?
- In 2024, what can you do to walk in the light, and to reflect the light of the world?