



A light in the darkness

To those who saw it...

- The Light of the World is news to share
 - The Shepherds
 - Those in Bethlehem
 - The Wise Men

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” *Luke 2: 10-11*

The Light of the World

“In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” *John 1: 1-5*

The Light of the World

“For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Cor. 4:6

Those who follow Jesus...

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set

on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5: 14-

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Shining lights?

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- In the midst of the darkness, we are called to be lights that shine
- Just as the star lit up the Bethlehem sky, we are to tell the world of the wonder of the Glory of God which is revealed in the face of Jesus
 - The beautiful Babe who came to save the world from sin

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- And so, God sent the remedy in the form of Jesus Christ
 - The problem defined
 - The solution provided

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 - The problem defined
 - The solution provided
- God's answer to mankind's dilemma

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 - Someone saying, “Houston, we have a problem...”

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and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

- There needs to be a voice
 - Someone saying, “Houston, we have a problem...”
- That “voice” comes to mankind through the words of Scripture, defining what God identifies as sin

We are called...

- To lovingly shine our lights in the darkness
- To know and speak lovingly what Scripture says
- And to stand firm in the process

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“What's clear is that such hateful anti-gay comments are unacceptable to fans, viewers, and networks alike... [Robertson's removal] has sent a strong message that discrimination is neither a Christian nor an American value’

- *GLAAD (Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)*

1 Corinthians 6: 9-10

“Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.”

Understand who this particular light is...

- He is second...

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- There will be darkness where we go this week

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- As we celebrate Christmas, there will be those who are living without Christ

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- There will be darkness where we go this week
- As we celebrate Christmas, there will be those who are living without Christ
- And we are called to let the love of Christ, the light of Christ, shine into that darkness
 - The darkness that is unaware
 - The darkness that defines itself

Words from a fellow light...

“If you simply put your faith in Jesus coming down in flesh, through a human being, God becoming flesh living on the earth, dying on the cross for the sins of the world, being buried, and being raised from the dead – yours and mine and everybody else's problems will be solved. And the next time we see you, we will say: 'You are now a brother. Our brother.' So then we look at you totally different then...We never, ever judge someone on who's going to heaven, hell. That's the Almighty's job, "We just love 'em, give 'em the good news about Jesus - whether they're homosexuals, drunks, terrorists.

Are we willing to be light?

- To share the real meaning of Christmas?

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- To lovingly speak the truth about sin?
- To share what Scripture says?
- To then love in the face of sin and not judge, but pray and trust God to “sort it out later...”