

to us  
a Son  
is Given

CHRISTMAS AT MARS HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Isaiah 8:22-9:7

“Son Light”

12-1-24

What would happen if the sun didn't  
rise? If the sun just disappeared?

Darkness

No photosynthesis

Temperature drop

Planetary drift

Death

What would happen to you if you never came out into the sunlight?

Sleep disruption

Mood swings and depression

Decreased energy levels

Vitamin D deficiency

What would happen to you if you never  
came out into the sunlight?

Cognitive impairment  
Altered hormone balance  
Hallucinations



# Matthew 4

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He withdrew to Galilee. 13 Leaving Nazareth, He went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun

and Naphtali - 14 to fulfill what was said  
through the prophet Isaiah:

15 “Land of Zebulun and land of  
Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond  
the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles -

16 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.”



# John 8

12 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."

# John 1:9,10

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.

1. The world is dark – deeply dark

We are those people living in darkness

Both evil and ignorant – utterly broken  
and incapable of fixing ourselves

NYT

“The Meaning of Christmas is that love will triumph and that we will be able to put together a world of unity and peace.”

# Vaclav Havel

“Pursuit of the good life will not help humanity save itself, nor is democracy alone enough. ... A turning to and seeking of ... God, is needed.”

# Bertrand Russell

“Such, in outline, but even more purposeless, more void of meaning, is the world which Science presents for our belief .. That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the ...

... end they were achieving; that his origin his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the ...



... grave; that all the labors of the ages,  
all the devotion, all the inspiration, all  
the noonday brightness of human  
genius, are destined to extinction in the  
vast death of the solar system, and that  
the whole temple of Man's achievement  
must inevitably be buried beneath the  
debris of a universe in ruins ...

... Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built.”

# Timothy Keller

Things really are this bad, and we can't heal or save ourselves. Things really are this dark – nevertheless, there is hope. The Christmas message is that 'on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.' ...

.. Notice that it doesn't say from the world a light has sprung, but upon the world a light has dawned. It has come from outside. There is light outside of this world, and Jesus has brought that light to save us; indeed, He is the Light."

## 2. Jesus, the Light ...

### A. Gives Life

Acts 17:28 “28 ‘For in Him we live and move and have our being.’ ...

## B. Reveals Truth

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life ...”

John 14:6

# 1 John 1

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. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ...



C. Is Beautiful

C. Is Beautiful – generates hope and joy

C. Is Beautiful – generates hope and joy

You can't have “delight” without “light”

3. We have this Light (Life, Truth and Beauty) because ...

A. To us, a child is born – v.6

“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”

3. We have this Light (Life, Truth and Beauty) because ...

A. To us, a child is born – v.6

B. To us, a son is given – v.6

“Given” necessitates a decision about  
receiving or not

Receiving Jesus as your “Light” means admitting you need Him and can’t produce the light you need yourself.

Receiving Jesus as your Savior means admitting you need saving.



Receiving Jesus means admitting I need  
Jesus to know and understand Truth.

Receiving Jesus means admitting I  
cannot generate true and lasting hope  
or joy for myself.

# John 3

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their

deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Christmas means Light has arrived and is  
available

It is possible to reject the Sun – to  
devastating affect.

It's easier to reject the Son – to a more  
devastating affect.

## John 3:18

“Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

# 1 John 5:12

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

“Thank you God for sending Jesus, Your Son. I need You Lord Jesus to give me eternal life and forgive me of my sins. Please come into my life as the Leader and Source of my life – I am putting my trust in you right now – thank you for shining on and in me.”




Radical trust dare –

When you find yourself in a deeply dark  
place of hopelessness and despair – pain  
and confusion ... a real crisis of faith ...

Pray – “God I am going to trust You are good even though I don’t see it clearly right now. I know in You I have hope even though everything feels hopeless right now. I believe in You, the sun of joy will again rise for me. ...

... I'm going to just hang on to You until it  
does, and I'm asking You to keep  
hanging on to me – I am trusting You.”



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## Philippians 2

14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” [c] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life.