

## **“CHRISTMAS: A SEASON OF LIGHT”**

**Satilla Baptist Church**

**Pastor William Pope**

**AM Sermon Notes**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> 2011**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- a. One of the most recognizable signs of Christmas is the putting up of lights. Towns, Homes, and Businesses all begin to put up lights. The Satilla Jewels have taken a few trips to Callaway Gardens to look at the Christmas Lights.
- b. Light is so important to us. If we are afraid we want the lights on. We put up security lights in our yards. Towns have night lights.
- c. The Bible tells us that God is Light:
  - i. *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5 (KJV)*
  - ii. *I charge you 14 to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which God will bring about in His own time. [He is] the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, 16 the only One who has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom none of mankind has seen or can see, to whom be honor and eternal might. • Amen. 1 Tim 6:13-16 (HCSB)*
- d. Christmas is all about God coming to man. Immanuel, God with Us. It is about Light coming to a world of darkness.

### **II. A LIGHT THAT WAS PROMISED**

- a. *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Isaiah 9:2 (KJV)*
  - i. Matt 4:16 quoted as a fulfillment of this prophecy
- b. Remember Isaiah 42 from last week?
  - i. *I, the Lord, have called you for a righteous [purpose], and I will hold you by your hand. I will keep you, and I make you a covenant for the people [and] a light to the nations, 7 in order*

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*to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, [and] those sitting in darkness from the prison house. Isaiah 42:6-7 (HCSB)*

*ii. 16 I will lead the blind by a way they did not know; I will guide them on paths they have not known. I will turn darkness to light in front of them, and rough places into level ground. This is what I will do for them, and I will not forsake them. Isaiah 42:16 (HCSB)*

*c. Then Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12 (HCSB)*

### **III. A LIGHT THAT REVEALS**

*a. This, then, is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. 21 But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.” John 3:19-21 (HCSB)*

*b. No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account. Heb 4:13 (HCSB)*

*c. Think of how Jesus who was the Light showed the true nature of all He came in contact with.*

- i. Mary: the pure virgin*
- ii. Shepherds: Humble men*
- iii. Wise Men: who were truly wise because they sought Jesus*
- iv. Herod: Wicked, cruel, selfish, and violent*
- v. John the Baptist: one who spoke the Word of God*
- vi. Peter: Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak*

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vii. Thomas: Wants to believe but finds it hard

viii. Paul: The sincere, religious zealot who does not know God.

ix. Us Today: Our reaction to the Gospel reveals who we are

### **IV. A LIGHT THAT REDEEMS**

a. *The Lord is my light and my salvation—.....Psalms 27:1 (HCSB)*

b. *Then Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”John 8:12 (HCSB)*

c. *I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me would not remain in darkness.John 12:46 (HCSB)*

d. *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.1 Peter 2:9-10 (KJV)*

e. We access this Light by Faith by believing in Jesus who is the Light.

### **V. A LIGHT THAT GUIDES**

a. If we believe in the Light and are redeemed from darkness, then the Light that redeemed us will now guide us.

b. Verse we read earlier:

i. *16 I will lead the blind by a way they did not know; I will guide them on paths they have not known. I will turn darkness to light in front of them, and rough places into level ground. This is what I will do for them, and I will not forsake them. Isaiah 42:16 (HCSB)*

c. Zacharias prophesying about Christ:

i. *Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in*

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*darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79 (KJV)*

d. Quote ðHe Leadeth Meö

He leadeth me, O blessèd thought!  
O words with heavøny comfort fraught!  
Whateøer I do, whereøer I be  
Still øtis Godø's hand that leadeth me.

*Refrain*

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
By His own hand He leadeth me;  
His faithful follower I would be,  
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
Sometimes where Edenø's bowers bloom,  
By waters still, over troubled sea,  
Still øtis His hand that leadeth me.

*Refrain*

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,  
Nor ever murmur nor repine;  
Content, whatever lot I see,  
Since øtis my God that leadeth me.

*Refrain*

And when my task on earth is done,  
When by Thy grace the victøryø's won,  
Eøen deathø's cold wave I will not flee,  
Since God through Jordan leadeth me

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### **VI. A LIGHT THAT OVERCOMES**

- a. One principle that we know is that Light always overcomes darkness. This is true in the natural realm but it is also true in the spiritual realm.
- b. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. <sup>4</sup> Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5 (HCSB)*
- c. The first spoken Word of Creation in Genesis is “Let there be Light”
- d. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Gen 1:1-3 (HCSB)*
- e. *1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. Rev 22:1-5 (KJV)*
- f. Quote “Heavenly Sunlight”
  - i. *Walking in sunlight all of my journey,  
Over the mountains, through the deep vale;  
Jesus has said, I’ll never forsake thee—  
Promise divine that never can fail.*
  - ii. *Refrain:  
Heavenly sunlight! Heavenly sunlight!*

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*Flooding my soul with glory divine;*

*Hallelujah! I am rejoicing,*

*Singing His praises, Jesus is mine!*

iii. *Shadows around me, shadows above me*

*Never conceal my Savior and Guide;*

*He is the light, in Him is no darkness,*

*Ever I'm walking close to His side.*

iv. *In the bright sunlight, ever rejoicing,*

*Pressing my way to mansions above;*

*Singing His praises, gladly I'm walking,*

*Walking in sunlight, sunlight of love.*

### **VII. CONCLUSION**

#### **a. Jesus the Light:**

i. **Was Promised**

ii. **Reveals the true nature of all**

iii. **Redeems those who come to Him**

iv. **Guides those whom He Redeems**

v. **Overcomes the Darkness of Evil, Sin, and Death.**

#### **b. Are you letting the Light in?**