

February 6, 2022

Christ Brings Light

by Rickie Jenkins

Sin brings darkness but Christ brings light. Jesus proclaimed, "I am the light of the world."

When we find ourselves in sins and come face to face with its hard reality, darkness is overwhelming. Sin produces a kind of blindness. It is blindness of our awareness of doing what we know that is right. It is blindness of the consequences. It is blindness of those we hurt. Sin blinds where we simply do not see. Paul will say, "That the Gentiles walk in the futility of their mind having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart, who being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness" (Eph. 4:17-19).

A person never gets to the state of mind where they give themselves over with greediness to sin until their heart is blinded. It is when that moment of clarity comes and the realization of the gravity of sin, that Christ brings light. We think, "Why couldn't I see what I was doing? Why couldn't I stop? Why couldn't I see who I was hurting? Why couldn't I just walk away?" Because we were blind. But when the "Son" light breaks through and begins to expose our hardness of heart, we see.

Oh, we see alright. We see what we have done. We see how we have turned

away from God. We see those we hurt. We see the tremendous price to be paid. We see the road to healing and reconciliation is a long road. If only we could have seen before, we would not have done what we did and be in the position we find ourselves.

Light exposes darkness (John 3:19-21). The light that Christ brings shines the brightest. It does not simply expose the darkness it also shines to show us the way home. His light shines to show us our way back to our Father. Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). Christ brings light into our lives to show us how we can be redeemed and reconciled. Christ brings light to show us how to live our lives in a manner that brings glory to God. Christ brings light to show us the way of selflessness. Christ brings light that shows us how we can be like the Father.

A lighthouse shines a beacon of light for ships lost and tossed in the darkness of the sea, to see the way to the shore and safety. Christ shines that bright light to show us the way home where there is true security and peace.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

San Marcos - gospel meeting, February 25-27 with David Watson.

San Antonio - Grissom Road is having a gospel meeting March 4-6 with Alan Wood.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Submissive Listening

By George Slover

Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

Since much of Solomon's writing is directed young men, the above passage seems appropriate. It reminds me of words often spoken to that argumentative teenager who needs to hush and listen to the voice of wisdom. Solomon says, "God has authority here! Hush and listen to God!"

But, does not the verse apply to all of us? Do we not at times struggle with God? Are there not times when we need to be put in our place and reminded that God is in heaven? So, hush and listen to God! Actually, this spirit of listening begins with the spirit of humility!

Like the teenager, we need to remember our place. No matter how many accomplishments we have to our credit, God created this universe. No matter how many war stories we can tell, God is stronger. Since we cannot brag in His presence, we should learn to listen!

When one fully understands his position before God, he will be abundantly blessed. True humility before God will lead to wisdom (Prov.11:2), guidance (Ps. 25:9), honor (Prov. 22:4), exaltation (Mt. 23:12), grace (Js. 4:6), and forgiveness (Lk. 18:9-14).

So, instead of compromising spiritually, recognize that God's way is superior in every phase of your life! Yield to Him, and you will be richly blessed!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson has improved some but still has limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

Dinah Williams is home but still has very limited mobility.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

Mark Braddock has stage 4 cancer and is not going to seek treatment. He is starting to feel poorly from it.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing chemo.

Randall Vanaman is having problems with one of his feet.

David Beckley is having health problems.

Ana Urquhart recently broke her arm.

Jim Trammel is having heart issues and is waiting for tests.

Laveta Martin passed away this week. Please keep the family in your prayers.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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