



CHRISTMAS FOR COVID DARKNESS

“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 8:12, NIV

“Look to God’s instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark. They will go from one place to another, weary and hungry. And because they are hungry, they will rage and curse their king and their God. They will look up to heaven and down at the earth, but wherever they look, there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair. They will be thrown out into the darkness.” Isaiah 8:20-22, NLT

The real message of Christmas...

“It’s really DARK _____”

= A problem _____ us

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PROBLEMS IN THE DARK:

1. _____ - **exposure**
2. _____ - **direction**
3. _____ - **who am I/who are you?**
4. _____ - **Disconnection**
5. _____ - **Scarcity**

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HUMAN DARKNESS:

- **Romans 1:21** they became foolish in their thinking and their hearts were darkened.

- **John 3:19-20** This is the judgement, that the Light has come into the world and men loved the darkness rather than the light for their deeds were evil.

- **1 John 2:11** The one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded him.

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The real message of Christmas...

“Our ‘_____’ are really insufficient”

The real message of Christmas...It’s dark...

“but.. _____”

= **A light has dawned!**

“Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.” Isaiah 9:1-7, NIV



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“Some look to the state, some more to the market, and everyone looks to technology. Yet they share the identical assumption. Things are dark but we believe we can end that darkness with intellect and innovation. Years ago, I read an ad in the New York Times that said, ‘The meaning of Christmas is that love will triumph and that we will be able to put together a world of unity and peace.’ In other words, we have the light within us, and so we are the ones who can dispel the darkness of the world. We can overcome poverty, injustice, violence, and evil. If we work together, we can create a ‘world of unity and peace.’ Can we? Despite the sincerity of the Times advertiser, the message of Christmas is not that ‘we will be able to put together a world of unity and peace.’ Actually, it is the exact opposite. Christmas, therefore, is the most unsentimental, realistic way of looking at life. It does not say, ‘Cheer up! If we all pull together we can make the world a better place.’ The Bible never counsels indifference to the forces of darkness, only resistance, but it supports no illusions that we can defeat them ourselves. Christianity does not agree with the optimistic thinkers who say, ‘We can fix things if we try hard enough.’ Nor does it agree with the pessimists who see only a dystopian future. The message of Christianity is, instead, ‘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 (John 8:12).”
(Timothy Keller, *Hidden Christmas*)



THERE IS A LIGHT

1. A light that has dawned

2. That outshines the darkness (John 1)

3. That never goes out (Rev 21)

4. That is given to us (Grace)

THERE IS A LIGHT...

"I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."

HIS NAME IS JESUS