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LIGHT OF THE WORLD

With Christmas over, our culture reverts. Now it transforms the lights of the holiday season into "blue light specials on aisle 7" as people scurry to resume their regular routines and collect more bargains. But what of Christ? Does the light of Jesus still shine?

The world sort of tolerates Christ at Christmas. Then it tries to put Jesus away with the nativity scenes and other decorations. "Back in the box with that light. We have other lights to delight us now," they say.

But angels announced Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophets: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great **light** - those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has **light** shined - for to us a child is born, a son is given"* (Isaiah 9:1-7). *"You are a **light** for the nations, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth"* (Isaiah 43:6; 49:6). The **glory** of the Lord shone all around when the angels proclaimed, *"Unto you is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10).

Speaking about Jesus, John 1:1-11 explains the background, *"in Him was life, and the life was the **light** of mankind."* Jesus coming in the flesh means the Creator Himself came to us, as *"the true **light**, which enlightens everyone."* But seeing is not believing. Not everyone receives Him.

"False light" confuses people. *"Satan disguises himself as an angel of light"* (2 Corinthians 11:14). As the *"father of lies"* (John 8:44), Satan never stops deceiving. People believe all sorts of silly things, instead of what God has clearly revealed. In 2 Corinthians 4:3-5 the apostle Paul says, *"if our gospel is veiled, it is only to those who are perishing. The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the **light** of the gospel of the **glory** of Christ, who is the image of God."*

It seems impossible to not see Jesus. He is *"the radiance of the **glory** of God and the exact imprint of His nature"* (Hebrews 1:1-4). Jesus the Son has revealed the Father, and made Him known (John 1:18).

The apostle Paul goes on in 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 to make an incredibly profound statement, *"we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord... For God, who said, let **light** shine out of darkness, has **shown** in our hearts to give the **light** of the knowledge of the **glory** of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* And this clearly explains why Jesus is the good news of great joy for all people - the **light** for the nations.

LIGHT - the Jews sought light, enlightenment, truth, the revealing of the Holy One. Jesus is the **CHRIST** that God promised as the light of salvation. Jesus is the **Light**. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

KNOWLEDGE - the Greeks sought knowledge. Jesus is the **SAVIOR**, the God-man, the true and perfect representative of the Creator, the Logos, Word, and source of all understanding, wisdom and knowledge.

GLORY - the Romans sought glory. Jesus is the **LORD** - the king of kings who conquers all powers of darkness forevermore! Jesus is the **glory** from all eternity past and for all eternity future.

The **light** of the knowledge of the **glory** of God **shines** in the face of Jesus Christ! God has kept His promises! Good news for all people! *"The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we have seen His **glory** - **glory** as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14).

But seeing is not believing. John 3:19 explains, *"the **light** has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than **light** because their deeds were evil. Everyone who hates the **light** does not come to the **light**, lest his deeds should be exposed."* But that's exactly why Christ came. Jesus said, *"I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk darkness but will have the **light** of life."* (John 8:12).

That's the right response to the light! Believe it! Receive it! Live in it! John 1:12 says *"To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right (power and authority) to become children of God, who were born of God."* John 1:13 and 3:3 explains this as the gracious work of the Holy Spirit, enlightening all who believe in Jesus. See the **light** - and put your trust in Jesus today!

Good news: *"The **light** of the gospel of the **glory** of Christ"* as John 1 proclaims Jesus the **light** shining in the darkness. And the darkness has not and cannot and will not overcome the true **light** of the world!