

## The Everlasting Light

Isaiah 9:1-7

Last week we looked at the “evergreen tree” as a symbol of eternal life!

Today we add lights to the tree as a symbol of everlasting light!

God has made us beings who are drawn to & attracted by the light!

- Consider:
- The awe-inspiring beauty of a sunrise
  - Timeless star-gazing on a clear night
  - The intoxicating flames of a bonfire
  - The joy-giving light displays of Christmas

God has made us not only attracted to, but also dependent upon, the light!

- Consider:
- Without the sun’s light we would all freeze to death.
  - Without headlights on our cars we would not be aware of our surroundings, thus endangering ourselves & others.
  - Without light, all of life would be distorted!

Thankfully, there is a light that is everlasting, that puts all of life into the proper perspective! That light is Christ Himself – who was, is, & is to come!

His light did not originate on that 1st Christmas, it always existed in Himself. Christmas simply revealed to a broken/fallen world the light’s true identity!  
Jesus is, “God from God, Light from light!” – Nicene Creed

The Christmas tree is a great picture & reminder of the identity of Jesus!  
In Him, there is both “eternal life” (tree) & “everlasting light” (lights).

**John 1:1-5** – “*In Him was life, & the life was the light of men*” –vs. 5

But just as natural light can get squelched & distorted by the darkness, so too can the light of Christ from our eyes! **John 1:9-11**

***“The world did not know Him... His own did not receive Him!”***

The darkness is powerful & pervasive, but Christmas reminds us that ***“The light shines in the darkness, & the darkness does not overcome it!”*** – John 1:5

No matter where, no matter what, no matter when, & no matter how dark, the “Everlasting Light” (Jesus) pierces through the darkness & brings hope, peace, perspective, comfort, joy, and life eternal!

This is what we celebrate at Christmas! **But this eternal truth also transcends this holiday season!** It is truth for every day, all year long!

And we need it today, 2000+ years after the Light came to earth, but God’s people also needed it 750+ years before He came – Isaiah’s prophecy!

Context: The people of God (Judah) were terrified of the looming threat of the Assyrian army. They did not know where to turn – they feared that God had abandoned them and that all hope had been lost!

Isaiah says in vs. 22, that if they turned to the things of this world to help them, then ***“distress, darkness, & the gloom of anguish”*** would be their reality. ***“And they will be thrust into thick darkness.”*** – Isaiah 8:22

Looking to the things of this world for hope, deliverance, & perspective, especially in the midst of such dire circumstances, will do no good.

**There’s no light, nor life, at the end of that tunnel!**

But if they would only look elsewhere, to God & His promised Messiah, then their darkness would be extinguished by light!

In the midst of such light, then they could be of those who speak of their own future by using past tense language like Isaiah uses here:

- ***“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”***
- ***“You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy!”***
- ***“The rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.”***

**Seeing the true Light allows for a different point of view** – not dwelling on the past, or current circumstances, but on the glorious future to come.

The same is true for us in the midst of the darkness we are now faced with! COVID 19 is no more powerful than the forces of darkness that God’s people have been faced with in history past, & it’s not more powerful than Christ!

There is an “Everlasting Light” that will light the way for us through this current darkness! His name is:

- **“Wonderful Counselor”**
- **“Mighty God”**
- **“Everlasting Father”**
- **“Prince of Peace”**

So whether we live 750 yrs before Jesus walked this earth, or 2000+ yrs after, God’s Light is shining on us, so let us live in response to this truth! **1 Peter 2:9**

## The Everlasting Light

## Isaiah 9:1-7

Last week we looked at the “evergreen tree” as a symbol of eternal life!

Today we add lights to the tree as a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_!

God has made us beings who are drawn to & attracted by the light!

- Consider:
- The awe-inspiring beauty of a sunrise
  - Timeless star-gazing on a clear night
  - The intoxicating flames of a bonfire
  - The joy-giving light displays of Christmas

God has made us not only attracted to, but also \_\_\_\_\_ upon, the light!

- Consider:
- Without the sun’s light we would all freeze to death.
  - Without headlights on our cars we would not be aware of our surroundings, thus endangering ourselves & others.
  - Without light, all of life would be \_\_\_\_\_!

Thankfully, there is a light that is everlasting, that puts all of life into the proper perspective! That light is \_\_\_\_\_ – who was, is, & is to come!

His light did not originate on that 1st Christmas, it always existed in Himself.

Christmas simply revealed to a broken/fallen world the light’s true identity!

Jesus is, “God from God, Light from light!” – Nicene Creed

The Christmas tree is a great picture & reminder of the identity of Jesus!

In Him, there is both “eternal life” (tree) & “everlasting light” (lights).

**John 1:1-5 – “In Him was life, & the life was the light of men” –vs. 5**

But just as natural light can get squelched & distorted by the darkness, so too can the light of Christ from our eyes! **John 1:9-11**

**“The world did not know Him... His own did not receive Him!”**

The darkness is powerful & pervasive, but Christmas reminds us that **“The light shines in the darkness, & the darkness does not overcome it!”** – John 1:5

No matter where, no matter what, no matter when, & no matter how dark, the “Everlasting Light” (Jesus) pierces through the darkness & brings hope, peace, perspective, comfort, joy, and life eternal!

This is what we celebrate at Christmas! But this eternal truth also \_\_\_\_\_ this holiday season! It is truth for every day, all year long!

And we need it today, 2000+ years after the Light came to earth, but God’s people also needed it 750+ years before He came – Isaiah’s prophecy!

Context: The people of God (Judah) were terrified of the looming threat of the Assyrian army. They did not know where to \_\_\_\_\_ – they feared that God had abandoned them and that all hope had been lost!

Isaiah says in vs. 22, that if they turned to the things of this world to help them, then **“distress, darkness, & the gloom of anguish”** would be their reality. **“And they will be thrust into thick darkness.” – Isaiah 8:22**

Looking to the things of this world for hope, deliverance, & perspective, especially in the midst of such dire circumstances, will do no good. There’s no light, nor life, at the end of that \_\_\_\_\_!

But if they would only look elsewhere, to God & His promised Messiah, then their darkness would be extinguished by light!

In the midst of such light, then they could be of those who speak of their own future by using \_\_\_\_\_ language like Isaiah uses here:

- **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”**
- **“You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy!”**
- **“The rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.”**

Seeing the true Light allows for a different \_\_\_\_\_ – not dwelling on the past, or current circumstances, but on the glorious future to come.

The same is true for us in the midst of the darkness we are now faced with! COVID 19 is no more powerful than the forces of darkness that God’s people have been faced with in history past, & it’s not more powerful than Christ!

There is an “Everlasting Light” that will light the way for us through this current darkness! His name is:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- “Mighty God”
- “Everlasting Father”
- \_\_\_\_\_

So whether we live 750 yrs before Jesus walked this earth, or 2000+ yrs after, God’s Light is shining on us, so let us live in response to this truth! **1 Peter 2:9**