

Sermon Title: Born into Darkness to be the Light

- I recently celebrated my birthday this past Thursday, and there is something special about my birthday, **I was born on the day of the year that has the least amount of sunlight.**
- We are not here this morning to talk about me, but we are here to talk about someone else's birthday and that's Jesus.
 - Even though Jesus wasn't born on the same day I was, Jesus was born into darkness as well.

John 1:1-5: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

- Verse 4 in the NLT says "The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone."
- The concept of Jesus being and bringing light is a theme of John's gospel.
 - The word "light" appears 30 times in John's gospel, 6 times in the first 9 verses including the 2 we read this morning.

John 3:19-21: "¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

John 8:12: "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."

- The last time Jesus refers to himself in John's gospel as the light is in chapter 12 when he says that he is leaving earth soon. And he shares with everyone, that **Jesus himself isn't the source of the light, his Father is the source of the light.**
 - This isn't a new concept, God is described as fire or light many times in the Old Testament.

- Other passages that describe God or Jesus as the Light:
 - Psalm 27:1
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Isaiah 9:2
 - 2 Corinthians 4:6
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:5

Matthew 5:14-16: "¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

1 Peter 2:9, 11-12 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

- Both Jesus and Peter tell us plain and simple that we have God's light inside of us, and we need to not be holding back the light but sharing it with others
- **The ways that we are to shine God's light are through our words and through our actions.**
- Heidelberg Catechism #86
- If you are someone that doesn't want to share your faith, I challenge you to connect with Jesus.
- Christmas Lights analogy
- How many of you watch the news, get a newspaper, or get your news on the internet? Is this world light or dark?
- I have two pictures, and I want you to rank how impactful these pictures are on a scale of 1-10.
- When Jesus came that first Christmas thousands of years ago, he brought bright light into a dark world. That is what we are called to be today as well. If we can make sure we are in the right spot, and if we can make sure we are connected to God the source of all of our light, then we can shine just as bright as this display into our dark world.

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

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