

Christmas 2018 - Isaiah 9 - LIGHT

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Why is the “FOR” there? - the for refers back to something said previously...In other words these three things exist BECAUSE this child was born -- 3 things Jesus brought because of his birth:

LIGHT

- Isa 9:2 **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.

JOY

- 3 You have multiplied the nation; **you have increased its joy**; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

FREEDOM

- 4 **For the yoke of his burden**, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, **you have broken** as on the day of Midian.

TODAY WE WILL TALK ABOUT LIGHT

Isa 9 is fulfilled in Matt 4...and gives a little insight into what is this “great light”

- Mat 4:12-20 ESV Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- 16 **the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.**" 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- STORY ["Y" Camp - dark night in the woods and a flashlight]

First a call to REPENTANCE *for the kingdom of God is at hand*

Light represents our new life in Christ, Darkness our life BEFORE we knew Him

- Joh 3:19-22 ESV 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." 22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing.

- Joh 12:46 ESV I have come into the world as light, so that **whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.**
- Joh 8:12 ESV Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness**, but will have the light of life."

Coming to Jesus is BELIEVING, FOLLOWING and WALKING

- Eph 5:7-10 ESV Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time **you were darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** 9 (for the **fruit** of light is found in *all that is good and right and true*), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the **unfruitful** works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

Second a call to BE a light - to be FISHERS OF MEN

- **BY GOOD WORKS** - Mat 5:14-16 ESV "**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.
- **BY THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL** Act 26:18 ESV to open their eyes, so that they may **turn from darkness to light** and from the **power of Satan to God**, that they may **receive forgiveness of sins and a place** among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Third: Another aspect of Light is the word of God

- Psa 119:105 ESV Your **word is a lamp** to my feet and a **light to my path.**
- Psa 43:3 ESV Send out your **light and your truth**; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!
- Psa 119:130 ESV The unfolding of **your words gives light**; it imparts understanding to the simple.

A link between His word and Light

- Joh 12:46-48 ESV I have come into the world **as light**, so that whoever believes in me **may not remain in darkness.** 47 If anyone **hears my words** and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and **does not receive my words** has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

It is not possible to understand light from darkness apart from His word

- Psa 36:9 ESV For with you is the fountain of life; **in your light do we see light.**

- Isa 5:20 ESV Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, **who put darkness for light and light for darkness**, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

His word MUST be IN us (this means that it has an effect on our lives where we practice truth)

- 1Jn 1:5-10 ESV This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that **God is light**, and **in him is no darkness** at all. 6 If we say we have **fellowship with him while we walk in darkness**, we lie and do not **practice the truth**. 7 But **if we walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin**. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and **the truth is not in us**. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and **his word is not in us**.

If we say we have fellowship with him and WALK IN DARKNESS we LIE and (he could have said “ we are not walking in the light”) Instead he said, YOU DO NOT PRACTICE THE TRUTH. He goes further to say”

- **If we are practicing the truth -- we are walking in the LIGHT and NOT in Darkness**
- **If the truth is “IN” us it will move us to acknowledge sin and experience the cleansing power of His blood**
- **His WORD “IN” us moves us to confess our sin, whereby we experience his faithfulness to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from righteousness**

When we walk in fellowship with Christ, walking in the light,

- --- His word has “place” in our lives, it “lives in us”, and it “moves us” to align our lives with Him
- ...It enables us to admit our sin, and confess our sin, so that we continually grow up into the likeness of Christ, that we actually live as children of the light.

As we walk in the LIGHT, we have FELLOWSHIP and his blood cleanses us from sin.

This addresses 2 imbalances/errors

- 1) That when you become a Christian, how you live no longer matters (this shows that walking in the light has the effect of constant sanctification)
- 2) That when you become a Christian, you no longer sin, or you are perfect, or you don't need to confess your sin

Jesus was born - to bring LIGHT to a DARK world. This Christmas, let us respond to the Light.

SUMMARY

- 1) **Light in the darkness - recognition of Jesus and a call to repent (respond to the light)**
- 2) **For those who respond - there is a call to BE a light for others “we are all missionaries”**
- 3) **We must embrace the LIGHT of His Word - Is the TRUTH “IN” you? Is His WORD “IN” you?**