

## “Light is very Good - Light is very Bad”

Lord Jesus, grant me your Spirit that I would proclaim your word in Truth and Power and that all who listen would hear what you have to say to them. To the glory of the heavenly Father. Amen.

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound“

Grace Mercy and Peace - Blessed are you in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

You have just heard the wonderful news of the Gospel -God is saving all who have been oppressed by sin, Satan, death. God is giving you - me all who come to Him Eternal Life in Heaven. He is giving Satan the depths of hell. Praise God Hallelujah!! ”Proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God.”

You have heard horrible news. God is the God of vengeance. He is saving all who have been oppressed by evil. That is not good news to the evil oppressors.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. to bear witness about the light. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.” Two chapters later are these words “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.” Light is very Bad.

We all love to hear the wonderful words of good news. God loves you with eternal love, Divine Love. Your Heavenly Father calls you His beloved child, invites you to live in His heavenly home forever, pure, holy without any spot or blemish, freed from every touch of darkness. The Light shines upon you to transform you into light. Wonderful news. Light, the lights of Christmas in all their wonder are only a faint hint of the real light to come.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Since we are here, it could be expected that we want to do the will of God. Give

thanks in all circumstances? Some circumstances are hard to take, impossible for us to see any reason to give thanks. It takes a lot of faith to say thanks in the face of tragedy and deep pain. To look at what is now and know there is no hope for better on this earth. Some have massive physical and mental damage. Some are caregivers. Other people can create situations that will determine our future. US law controls what some can do for their lifetime. Some circumstances are evil. It takes a lot of faith to give thanks in all circumstances.

God's light reveals what darkness tries to hide. Darkness, evil, claim to be real, powerful in this world. We live where we live and see what we see. Darkness claims to determine our lives. "John came to bear witness about the light. He was not the light. He confessed, 'I am not the Christ. I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

God is telling us we can do something for Him. We can make straight the way of the Lord. At least try to make the way straight in our lives. We might even by His grace make some straightening up around us, with those who can see our witness. Don't think you

can? Do not quench the Spirit. If you get an idea of something to do that Jesus wants done, - do it, or some word of encouragement, comfort - say it. The Spirit leads us gently, quietly. All we are doing is sharing kindness, love, inviting folks to come closer to the light of real love, joy, comfort, power, come to the light of God's love.

I talked to a lady the other day. Her family tells her she is going to hell since she is the only one who doesn't go to church. She is not impressed with them or church. Many who do not go to church are like her. They need to be invited to come to the fountain of all love, know the love of Jesus. Many will come to want to love Him, worship Him.

Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Not every voice that claims to be from God is. Is it really loving? Kind? Abstain from every form of evil. Do not do evil. Understand hurting, confused people act out of their pain. The surface of their lives may look evil. They may do evil. Speak to them as Jesus would speak to them. The Bruised reed, the smoking wick He did not damage. He did not attack the sinners He met. He was accused of welcoming prostitutes, sinners.

John cried out 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' John and Jesus called for repentance. It was not the weak and wounded they accused. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

If he was here now he would not be attacking the druggie, the sexually depraved, the wicked people. It is the religious leaders, leaders of society, the good church members. that He attacked. I am an ordained minister of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and subscribe to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. God can make more like me out of the rocks in the driveway.

And the crowds asked John, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." The Bible does say if a man would not work he ought not to eat. I have never heard anyone who quotes that, take the next logical step, I

am sure God includes. Make sure he has a chance to work at something within his God given abilities. If you do not give him food than you must in the name of Jesus give him work.

What what! You mean we should provide jobs, work? Impossible outrageous, provide work for worthless useless people? Now I do not know how to solve the political problems of this nation. There are many good sounding ideas. I would like to know how other nations meet these needs. I do not know the solution. I do know it is not the will of God to let the hungry starve. Not even the worthless hungry. After all we must not think God thought we were so wonderful we were worth saving.

"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely". Sanctify is one of those religious words that goes over our heads. What does it mean? Make holy. May the God of peace himself make you holy. completely. Make me completely holy? Well I can not make me holy. I am not sure how I can make me better. I usually just try to do what I can. Do better? How can we do that? We can't! Only the power of the Spirit of God that dwells with in us can make us better.

That is why we come here. We hope try to get better or maybe try not to get worse. We come to build up, feed the Spirit within. We join in with the Christians around us, sing hymns, pray, worship, tell God we love him. Ask for His forgiveness, healing. Listen to His Word, receive Him, His body and blood He truly lives within us. The God of peace Himself makes us completely holy.

Light is very good - Light is very bad. We see how wonderful God is, how great His love, saved by the cross of Christ, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gates of heaven open waiting for us. Light is both good and bad, we see our flaws, imperfections, sins. It grieves us that we are not right and unable to make ourselves all we would like to be. We are filled with gratitude thanksgiving for what our Father does for us.

Very bad light - we see the evil of this world. Evil that harms us, that intends to do us harm, destroy us. We see evil in our society, our nation, evil that burdens our lives and the lives of those we live with, that makes the future dark. We see evil even in the Church. It is filled with sinners, with leaders that are flawed. Not even the church on earth is what it ought to be.

“He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. . . . your whole spirit and soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” He who calls you is faithful, He will surely do it!”

God has given you peace that passes all understanding, your life, all you have are held in His hands, your hearts and minds are kept in Christ Jesus Amen.

### **3 Advent**

Psalm 126

1 Thess 5:16-24

Dec 14, 2014

Hymns 27,18,13

Is 61:1-4,8-11

John 1:6-8,19-28

Living Water Rosedale