

A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

2008 Advent Season

"Christmas Lights For Everyone To See"

Luke 2:8-14 (Pew Bible Page 725)

John 1:1-12 (Pew Bible Page 750)

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE

1. People still "walk in darkness" Isaiah 9:2

* It was true in the OLD TESTAMENT days

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope." This is what God the LORD says—he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness." Isaiah 42:1-7

* It was true in JESUS' day

"The Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness instead of the Light and their deeds were evil." John 3:19

* It is true TODAY

"We're living in darkness until something flips on the switch" Wynonna Judd

"I think we all have a darkness in our bellies" Kevin Bacon

"Every man must decide...will he walk in creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." Martin Luther King, Jr

2. Hope springs eternal

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" Isaiah 9:2

They believed when the Light came it would be...

* EYE OPENING

* BONDAGE BREAKING

* SOUL REDEEMING

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name!" Isaiah 42:6-8

WE CELEBRATE BECAUSE THE LIGHTS...

1. Are for **EVERYONE**
"Here is my Servant...My chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my spirit in him and he will bring justice to the nations" Isaiah 42:1

"...a covenant for the people, a light to the Gentiles..." Isaiah 42:6

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness"
John 12:46
2. Are giving **LIFE**
"In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." John 1:4-5

Life - **ZOE**
3. Cannot be **EXTINGUISHED**
"...rulers of darkness..." Ephesians 6:12

"The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." John 1:5

HOW WILL YOU "CELEBRATE THE LIGHT" THIS CHRISTMAS?

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16

Let it shine through your...

DEEDS OF KINDNESS

WORDS OF BLESSING