

## The Brightest Christmas Light

2 Cor. 4:1-6

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Dec. 8, 2019

**Read: Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7, John 1:1-14, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6**

### I. God Gave Us the Best and Brightest Light When He Gave Us His Son

**2 Corinthians 4:4, 6** "...the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God...the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

The Gospel has light in it and that light is there because of the glory of Christ who is the very image of God! (v 4)

If you want to experience the light of knowing the one, true, living God – in all of His glory – it's found in the person of Jesus Christ! You'll never know God apart from His Son. (v 6)

The Gospel is not so much a list of mental facts that you simply assent to. The Gospel is about a person you have to *submit* to – and His name is Jesus Christ!

**John 1:18** "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has made him known."

### II. People Can't Celebrate What They Can't See and What They Don't Want to See

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** "<sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

These two verses diagnose and explain the spiritual condition of men and women apart from the grace of God.

There is a veil that keeps the Gospel from looking like good news and there is an enemy who is working to keep that veil in place – by blowing smoke and blinding people to the glory and light of Jesus Christ.

"Blinded" in Greek = "tuphos" which means to burn or smoke

There's something else going on that is equally strong as to why people don't see the glory of Christ.

**John 3:19** "This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

*NIV* "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

**Romans 1:18-21** "...<sup>18</sup> [they] suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

There is a darkness that they *choose* because there's truth about God that they *suppress*.

### III. **God Has to Do for Us What We Could Never Do for Ourselves**

**2 Corinthians 4:6** "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

You didn't save yourself or find God – He found you and His sovereign grace saved you!

We see parallels between God's creation of physical light and what He does for us spiritually.

**Genesis 1:2-3** "<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."

God has to turn the lights on in your heart!

### IV. **God Chooses to Use People Like You to Point Others to Jesus**

**2 Corinthians 4:5** "For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake."

When you truly know Jesus, you're compelled to talk about Him!

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** "<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

**2 Corinthians 5:20** "...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

God wants you to represent Jesus Christ and He wants to plead through you for people to turn to Christ.

God has to do it...but He chooses to do it through people just like you!