l am the Light of the World





Junior Edition





SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! *But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name*. (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. (Colossians 3:16a KJB)



Now although the exact date of Jesus' birth is NOT given to us in the Bible, & even though there is NO commandment given by God in His Word to set aside a special day to celebrate His birth, early Christians decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And for certain reasons that might be interesting for you to research on your own, they chose December 25th as the day for their celebration. The December 25th celebration tradition still carries on today.

And so, since at this time of year, many Christians think about the wonderful birth of Jesus Christ, we'll take a break from our current topic, which has been THE ARMOR OF GOD, to learn something really important about WHO Jesus Christ is and WHY He came down from the glories of heaven to enter into that tiny body in the manger 2000 years ago.

To begin our lesson, we would like you to take a minute to think about something that we sure do see a lot of at this time of year, especially on

Trees & houses & stores. We'd like you to think about





Our world is FILLED with all kinds of LIGHTS! And it sure is a GOOD THING that we have lights because without them, we would NOT be able to see a thing! What does light do? Let's see just a few things that light does.

LIGHT DRIVES OUT DARKNESS.

For example, if God had not given us the sun, the moon, and the stars, this entire world would be in darkness. We would NOT be able to see a thing! Have you ever been in a room that is PITCH DARK? We sure do put the lights on in a hurry if we want to see what's in that room! Well, there was a time on this earth when everything WAS in complete darkness!

"And the earth was without form, and void; and <u>darkness</u> was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2 KJB

I sure am glad that God did NOT leave the world like THAT! I sure am glad that God gave this earth LIGHT before He put us here! Here is what He did at that time when the earth was ALL DARK! "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." Genesis 1:3 KJB That is how POWERFUL God is! All He has to do is SPEAK HIS WORD, & the thing is DONE!

When LIGHT enters, all of a sudden the <u>DARKNESS DISAPPEARS</u>! Here is another thing that light does.

LIGHT REVEALS PATHS.

Lights on our highways and sidewalks, inside movie theaters help us to see the safe places to drive or walk when it is dark. Even inside planes, there are tiny lights along the outside edges of the seats. These lights guide the people on the plane to where the exits are in case there is an emergency & the people must get off the plane quickly.

LIGHT WARNS US OF DANGER!



Blinking lights near railroad tracks warn us that a train is coming. Blinking lights on our highways warn us that there may be obstacles on the road that we should avoid.

Blinking lights at the top of lighthouses warn ships of dangerous rocks or currents.

LIGHT DRAWS THINGS TO ITSELF!

Did you ever notice how all kinds of moths & bugs come to your front door when you leave a light on during the summer months? Well, light in darkness draws certain things to itself. However SOME things like bats scurry AWAY from bright light! They prefer DARKNESS! But even so, just one tiny light in a pitch dark room draws our eyes right to it! Light sure IS important. Remember these 4 important things about light as we now look into our King James Bible to see something VERY IM-PORTANT about WHO Jesus is & WHY He came down to earth that day 2000 years ago.

Jesus Himself tells us who He is:



"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, <u>I am the light of the</u> world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12 KJB

Jesus tells us that He is THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! He tells us that if we follow Him we won't be walking around in the dark.

What does Jesus mean?

Well, just as the physical LIGHT that God gave us the sun, the moon & the stars - reveals all the things that are on this earth - the trees, the mountains etc. all the physical things of this earth, Jesus is the LIGHT that reveals God to us! Now it is true that the things that God created - the sun, the moon, the stars, the oceans, the flowers etc show us WITHOUT A DOUBT that God exists. Just looking at all these things show us that there MUST BE SOMEONE ALL-WISE & ALL-POWERFUL & CARING to have been able to create all these things & keep them in order all this time. Romans 1:19-20 tells us that the created things of this world DO show us God's power and intelligence! But they do NOT give us the way to really KNOW GOD personally & experience His LOVE for ourselves. In fact, God says that when we are born into this world, we are

IN THE DARK

concerning God. God says that the ONLY WAY we can know Him & experience His Love & care for us is through Jesus Christ! Jesus is the ONLY ONE who can TAKE US OUT OF THE DARK concerning God! He is the ONLY ONE who can show us GOD! In fact, one day, Jesus told His disciple Phillip this very thing. Philip asked Jesus to show them God. John 14:8-9 KJB

"Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.



Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? <u>He that</u> <u>hath seen me hath seen the</u> <u>Father;</u> and how sayest thou *then* Shew us the Father?"

Why could Jesus say this? Why could Jesus say that if we see Him, we've seen God the Father? Well, let's read these next 2 scriptures, compare what they say to find out WHY Jesus said that He can show us God. Here is what Jesus said about Himself as we have already read:

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, <u>I</u> am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12 KJB

Now read this about God:

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, <u>that God is light,</u> and in him is no darkness at all." 1John1:5 KJB

This means that God is PURE. He is PERFECTLY HOLY! In fact, God is so BRIGHT & PURE & HOLY that our human eyes could NEVER see God! Because of our sinful nature, we could NEVER have a relationship with him. Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23 KJB God CANNOT accept sin! God is PURE! God is LIGHT! And Jesus said that HE also is LIGHT! Jesus IS GOD! But look what else Jesus added to the fact that He IS LIGHT! He said: "I am the Light OF THE WORLD! When Jesus came down from heaven to enter that tiny baby body especially prepared for Him by His Father, one of the reasons He came down was to SHOW THE WORLD GOD! He could do that because JESUS IS GOD! He came down from heaven & covered all His GLORY -HIS LIGHT with that specially prepared human body. NOW human eyes COULD see Him; & He showed man what God is like. He came to take us OUT of the DARKNESS we were in about God!

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."



2Cor 4:6 KJB

Now we know that Jesus came to this earth as our Savior. He died on the cross & rose again to take our sins away for ever & make our way to God. And now we see that the other reason Jesus came was to show us God in ways we could understand. Jesus is the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. He came to SHOW US GOD by the way He lived - what He thought, said, did! Remember all the things we said that light does?

LIGHT DRIVES OUT DARKNESS: Jesus did that when He entered this world & showed us what God is like. He gave us the ONLY WAY to KNOW GOD & have a personal relationship with Him.

LIGHT REVEALS PATHS: Jesus lights our way to God because Jesus IS our way to God.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 KJB

Also, Jesus tells us in the Bible all the RIGHT PATHS we should choose to take as we live on earth.

"Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:105 KJB

LIGHT WARNS US OF DANGER! In the Bible JESUS WARNS us about lots of things - especially that we should NOT leave this world without believing in Him as our Savior! If we do, we'll spend eternity in agony! John 3:16-18, 36.

LIGHT DRAWS THINGS TO ITSELF! Read John 12:32! He is the LIGHT that draws all men to God. Sadly, many people will NOT GO to Jesus!

Thank You, Father, in Jesus Name for sending us Jesus, the LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service 10:00 A.M. Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

> Weekly Services Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

> **Communion Service** First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room Available for Every Service

> Email info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6** W.
- Take <u>Killingly St</u> (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* Take <u>Mineral Spring</u> to end on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn Left at light (CVS on corner), and then bear Left at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- G.C.F. is on the *Left*.

- **From Rt. 146**
- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From 146 N turn *Left* off Exit; from 146 S turn Right.
- and stay Left around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
 - Take next Right onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
 - Go about 1¹/₂ mi.
 - G.C.F. is on the *Right*.

Grace Christian Fellowship

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