

Christ the Light of the World

(John 8:12; 9:5; 11:9)

“Many kinds of darkness in the world are found—**sin** and **want** and **sorrow**” (*Grace and Truth Hymns* #347)

Kinds of Darkness and the Contrasting Light

1. Sin

- a. Rebellion against the light (Job 24:13; John 3:19).
- b. Secret sin that is known to God and to Christ (Psa. 90:8; Matt. 26:21; Luke 7:39,40).
- c. Confession of sin (Job 33:28).
- d. Light from heaven exposing sin (Acts 9:3,4).
- e. The power to keep from sin (Psa. 119:105; Prov. 6:23).

“If any say, I have sinned ... He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light” (Job 33:28)

2. Want

- a. Supply for all we need (Phil. 4:19).
- b. Want of health (Mark 1:23-45).
- c. Want of food (1 Kings 17:8-16; Matt. 14:21; 15:38; George Müller).
- d. Want of life (Luke 7:14,15; John 11:43,44).
- e. Want of eyesight (John 9:5-7, 2 Cor. 4:4).
- f. Want of salvation (Matt. 15:28; Mark 2:5; Luke 2:32; 7:48-50; 15:4,5; 1 Pet. 2:9).

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19).

“I am the light of the world ... He anointed the eyes of the blind man ... [he] came seeing” (John 9:5-7).

3. Sorrow

- a. Bereavement (John 11:20-46).
- b. Anxiety over impending death and the outer darkness that follows (Isa. 9:1; Matt. 8:12; Luke 1:78,79).
- c. Anxiety over being lost and not knowing our way (Psa. 78:14; 107:4-7; 119:105; Luke 1:79; John 8:12).
- d. Anxiety over losing a treasured or essential possession (such as purse, check book, car keys, or employment; Luke 15:8,9).
- e. Bitterness of soul (1 Sam. 1:10-20; Job 3:20).

“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

f. Fear and anxiety over being surrounded by one's enemies (1 Sam. 23:26-28 [compare Psa. 22:21]; Psa. 27:1-3; 43:2,3; 97:10-12).

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psa. 27:1).

g. Depression over being in prison (Psa. 107:10-16).

h. General depression or darkness of the soul (1 Kings 19:1-18; 2 Cor. 4:6-9).

i. Anxiety over weather conditions (such as having to drive on icy roads or being in a boat during a storm; Psa. 107:23-30; Mark 4:37-41).

j. Anxiety over a variety of daily troubles (such as a computer crash, dead battery, other car trouble, or an axe head that has fallen into the river; 2 Kings 6:5-7).

Blessings from Having and Knowing Christ as the Light of the World

1. "Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious and full of compassion" (Psa. 112:4).
2. "I am come a light into the world, that whoever believes on Me should not abide in darkness" (John 12:46).
3. "Daniel ... said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, for wisdom and might are His ... He reveals the deep and secret things; H knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him" (Dan. 2:20-22; 5:11).

Light in the Bible Is Linked with:

Salvation (Psa. 27:1)

Truth (Psa. 43:3)

Gladness (Psa. 97:11)

Grace, compassion, righteousness (Psa. 112:4)

The Word (Psa. 119:105)

Instruction (Prov. 6:23)

Life (Prov. 16:15)

Straight paths (Isa. 42:16)

Glory (Isa. 60:1,19; Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 2:32; 2 Cor. 4:4-6)

Revealing secret things (Dan. 2:20,22)

Understanding, wisdom (Dan. 5:11)

Guidance (Luke 1:79; John 8:12; John 12:35; Rev. 21:23,24)

Causing the blind to see (John 9:5)

Walking without stumbling (John 11:9)

Knowing God (Acts 26:13-18)

The Way of salvation (Acts 26:23)

Righteousness (2 Cor. 6:14)

Mercy (1 Pet. 2:9,10)

Brotherly love (1 John 2:10)

The Eternal Light of Christ and Its Reflection in His Church

"Her light was like unto ... a jasper stone, clear as crystal.... The street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass" (Rev. 21:11,21). "The city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it; and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23).