

“Living in the Light”

March 24, 2021

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Mid-week 6

Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God, our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**[Introduction]**

**[1]** We are on a quest to figure out our own person seven words

– seven words to communicate the Gospel.

That has been our journey this Lenten season.

We introduced the concept, reviewed some Biblical themes,  
and then last week, Vicar encouraged you to create your own statement,  
your own Gospel in seven words.

This week, let’s look at another theme... ***Light!***

**[2]**

Here is what happened after a congregational voters’ meeting...

When asked by a fellow member why she voted against  
buying a new chandelier for the church sanctuary,  
the woman said it was very simple.

“One, I can’t spell it.

Two, no one can play it.

And three, what we really need around here

is a new light fixture.”

**[3] *Out of darkness comes light.***

God’s work began in the darkness (Gen 1:1–2).

The spirit of God hovered over the darkness.

He creates something out of nothing.

He says, “Let there be light” (Gen 1:3).

And there was light! From out of nothing there was light!

Notice – we give the sun and moon and stars credit for the light.

But the Word of God says light exists apart from them,

for they were not created until the fourth day.

The light is good and different from the darkness (Gen 1:4).

The light is called “day” (Gen 1:5).

[4] On the first day – God created Night and Day

[5] On the second day – God created Sky

[6] On the third day – God created Land, Sea, Plants

[7] On the fourth day – God created Sun, Moon, and Stars

[8] On the fifth day – God created the Birds of the Air and the Fish of the Sea

[9] On the sixth day – God created all the animals and you and me.

[10] God created the crown of his creation – you and me... people...

But we couldn't just do what he told us.

God comes looking for Adam and Eve in the cool of the day (Gen 2:8).

And Adam and Eve hide from God.

And they return to the darkness among the trees of the garden.

In darkness they hide!

Because they sinned...

Because they disobeyed...

Because they did not listen to God... Adam and Eve hid in darkness.

And now... The light of oneness with God

[11] now becomes the darkness of pain, work, and death (Gen 3).

BUT even when they were disobedient... God took care of them.

[12] Hear me clearly... even when they were disobedient... God took care of them.

[13] God promises a Messiah of light to defeat the evil one of darkness (v 15).

[14] God clothes his people with skins of forgiveness (v 21).

[*Darkness*]

Our first parents experienced what it means

[15] to live in darkness *and* light.

And so have we!

Our world – our world is a world of sin and darkness.

We, too, hide from God because of our sin.

Our sins condemn us to a state of separation from God.

A place of complete darkness.

And some would rather live in the darkness.

An old story goes...

[16] A man woke up hungry in the night.

He reached for a date to eat,  
examined it under the light,  
found a worm in it,  
and threw it away.

He reached for a second one and found another worm.

[17] Finally he turned off the lamp  
and proceeded to consume his entire jar of dates in the darkness.

[18] There are times when we hide in darkness – like Adam and Eve  
We are... and here is the fancy Latin phrase – *simul justus et peccator*,  
*Same time Sinner and Same time Saint*  
until Jesus calls us to our heavenly home.

We are sinner and saint. We are sinner because we still hide in darkness.

John 3 tells us...

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

And then it says...

<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.  
<sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

[*The Light*] We are saint because we know THE light.

- (1) Jesus is the light of the world (Jn 8:12).
- (2) Those who follow Jesus no longer walk in darkness but have the light of life.
- (3) We are a chosen race of people that are now called out of darkness into his marvelous light to declare his wonderful deeds (1 Pet 2:9).

And in Jesus, we reflect the light.

- (1) Living in the righteousness of Christ we let our light shine so that others may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven (Mt 5:16).
- (2) We are lights to the world and set ourselves on a high hill, not under a bushel (v 14).

Here and Now, we are Sinner and Saint.  
But the day will come.

The day will come when the Light will completely obliterate the darkness

And on that day... we will no longer be sinner, we will only be saint.  
On that day... we will know the new heaven and earth (Rev 21:1–4).

[*Conclusion*]

[19] Light is a strong theme in the Bible

*Light always emerges out of darkness.*

And we are living in the light.

[20] How about these seven words...

“My Jesus gives light and eternal life.”

What a great summary of the good news of Jesus. In  
in a day and age that is filled with many reasons for despair, darkness, and death,  
“My Jesus gives light and eternal life.”

Next week we’ll celebrate the most important events in history.

This would be a great way of explaining  
to your friends and family and neighbors the reason for Easter.

My Jesus—I like how personal that is.  
He’s not just for us. He’s not just for them.  
He’s also for me. For you.

And what does he give us? Light. Life.  
Such things we are all looking for. Such things we all desperately need.

My prayer for you this Holy Week  
is that you will see our suffering and dying and rising Savior as your Jesus.  
That his passion and love for you will bring light to all that is dark in your life.  
I pray that his glorious resurrection will fill you with life  
—new life, real life, joyful life, abundant life.  
And ultimately, eternal life.  
“My Jesus gives light and eternal life.” Amen.

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So we... Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among the people. AMEN! (Psalm 96:3)

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