

Merry Christmas everyone. Did Santa come?

What I wanna know, is “How many people asked for a torch this Christmas???” We don’t do that anymore, do we...

*I was looking through my camping gear the other day. I’ve got a*

- *gas light that hooks it onto the bottle and goes up on a stand;*
- *twin mantle pump-up petrol pressure lamp... What an amazing bit of gear that is. Fill it up with petrol; Pump it up... Pressurised petrol – that’s the way to go...*

*Except every time I wanted to use it, I’d have to put a new mantle on it. I don’t think you can even get the genuine mantles any more, but a pair of mantles cost about \$5, and they’ll be good until I travel with the lamp again.*

- *12V fluoro that can plug into the car, and it will run a few hours before the battery goes flat.*
- *And somewhere I would have the remnants of my Maglite...*

*In my younger years, particularly when I was shooting roos, & baling hay at night, almost every year, it was a quest for a better torch. Something brighter; Something cheaper to run...*

- *D-size battery torch;*

- *Dolphin;*  
*Rechargeable battery for the Dolphin.*
- *Maglite (with 2 D-sized batteries);*
- *Rechargeable torch;*
- *Rechargeable Maglite...*

*It's all old technology. I've got all this "good" stuff, that's useless, but it's too valuable to throw away, because it's worth nothing...*

*These days, with a lithium battery and a few LED lights, Wow!!! Can't we bring some light to the darkness now. And some of them will run for days before your battery goes flat...*

*It used to be a very special person, who was always prepared and amazingly had a little torch, for when it was needed... But of course, now **everyone** has a torch. You just pull out your phone, and we've got light...*

We take light for granted.

The Christmas reading for today, is coming from the Gospel of John. And in it, there's no:

- Angels;
- Shepherds;
- Wise men;
- Sheep;
- Star;

- Baby in a manger...

There's not even a:

- “Glory to God in the Highest”...

The Christmas story in John, is about light coming into the world.

Let me read it:

John 1:1-13

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people

did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

A very different Christmas story.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father,  
As we think upon these things today,  
Drench us in Your Light,  
That we would know Christ,  
And be born as children of God.

Amen.

Righto:

Jesus is the light of the world. We know that, hey... And at Christmas time, we celebrate the light coming into the darkness.

Today, we have 7 short points.

**1.**  
“Life” and “Light” go together.

Jesus is not a created being. When Jesus was born at Bethlehem, that wasn't His first appearance. He was there at creation. In fact, as God the Son, Jesus **did** the creating. Jesus gave "Life". <sup>4</sup> **In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

Now, when the Gospel of John talks about "life", "Life" isn't simply a matter of "Not being dead".... It is so much more than that. It's about deep, meaningful life. There are a lot of people who might be breathing, but they don't have a deep, meaningful life. Why not? Because God isn't in it. They're just merely existing...

The life that is "light", is to be in relationship with God

- not just knowing about God;
- Not just believing that He exists....

It's:

- to **know** God;
- To be known **by** God;
- To have a close, loving, meaningful relationship **with** God...

Life and Light go together.

## 2.

Light shines in darkness, and is not overcome by darkness.

*Years ago, I saw a cartoon – I think it might have been a Hagar comic, and the caption was "It was a very dark night".*

*There was a lamp in the house, and the door of the house was open, and darkness was shining inside, and darkening in through the door of the house...*

*And it looked ridiculous. Light shines out. Darkness doesn't shine in...*

*Darkness does not overcome light.*

And the Light of Jesus, shines today. This very day, all over the world, hundreds of millions of people, will be proclaiming the Name of Jesus. The light of Jesus shines into the world.

Now,  
Satan always does his best to extinguish the light. Our society are trying desperately, to remove Christ from Christmas. So, they talk about the Holiday season instead of the Christmas season.

And think about the Christmas decorations that we see in most of the shops... Rarely a nativity to be found... There's Santas; Sleighs; Reign-Deer; and Candy-canes??? What's that about??? Oh, that's right, that represents the shepherds. Tick. That's a good thing.

But of course, when John talked about how the Light was not overcome by darkness, He was talking about the resurrection.

The little Babe in a manger, grew to become a man on the cross. And He was buried. But death could not keep Him down. The Light of Life, could not be extinguished, and Jesus was raised from the dead, and the light continues to shine today.

### 3.

For light to be effective, it has to be made known.

*A torch, has a concave reflector, or a lens, to focus the light into a beam, that can be directed.*

*A lighthouse has a prism (Fresnel {Frey-Nel} Lens) to concentrate the light into a narrow beam, and a mechanism to make the prism turn, so that the beam can be seen at all points.*

But even so, what does that mean? A sailor has a nautical chart, which makes the lighthouse known. In this location, a light flashing at this rate, is such-&-such-a lighthouse. The light has to be made known.

And John the Baptist came, to bear witness about the light.

If Jesus (the Light of the World) just turned up, “Yeah, He’s a nice guy...” And so, the role of John the Baptist, was to make the light known.

In what way? Number

### 4.

John the Baptist came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe

I love the way the Gospel of Jesus isn't an elitist thing. **All** are called to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The witness is **for all**.

BTW, the word “believe” here, in Greek, it's the same as “faith”,,, But it's not a Noun. It's a Verb.

Do you know the difference between a noun and a verb? A noun is something that “is”. A verb, is something you “do”.

To be in the Light of Jesus, the sort of faith we're talking about, is an active faith – being involved in the light. We don't just have faith. We **live** it. We live faithfully....

## 5.

**True** Light, gives light to everyone.

There is “**true** light”, and then there's “deceptive light”.

*When I was a child, we were travelling at night (I think it must've been on holidays), in the family car – a Dark Blue HQ Kingswood Station wagon.*

*And my Dad was a very naughty boy, and got a speeding ticket. And as the Policeman was writing out the ticket, he asked my Dad, what colour the car was. And my dad thought, “Well, that's a stupid question. You can see for yourself.”*

*But then he realised that the Policeman wasn't stupid – quite the opposite... He'd pulled us up under a bright yellow street-*



*light, and it didn't look anything like the colour that the car actually was.*

*And at that point, Dad was tempted because if he said "It's red", and the Policeman wrote the colour down as "red", he could then dispute the ticket as being inaccurate, and therefore not valid...*

*But alas, he was honest and said "It's dark blue"...*

Impure light, is deceptive light.

And there are many deceptive lights, pointing to alternative gods. But Jesus is the only pure Light. Jesus is the **True** Light... There is no falsehood in Him.

Jesus is the Way; The Truth; and the Life. **No** one can come to the Father, except through Him.

**6.**  
But sadly, Point No. 6:  
Not everyone will receive Him.

Jesus was in the world. He created the world, but the world didn't know Him.

And He came to His own – His own people – the people of Israel,,,, And they didn't receive Him – they crucified Him...

And Jesus is the light of the world for **our** generation....  
How many will receive Him? On this Christmas morning, as

we celebrate the Birthday of Jesus, how many people even take the time to gather and worship?

There wasn't even any room for Him in the Inn... Is there room for Jesus in our Christmas festivities???

7.

But praise God, some did receive Him.

And praise God, that some will receive Jesus today;

And some believe in His Name today...

You know, to receive the Light, is to have Life of a whole different kind. What a difference "light" makes.

V<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ...Born by the will of God...

Wow.... What an amazing picture of grace and mercy...

This isn't merely a possibility of having some kind of tentative, loose relationship with God. It is the right to become children of God

Wow. How amazing is that!!!!

We don't deserve it. We didn't earn it... If we were to continue further into the chapter, we would hear about "Grace". And that in Jesus, we receive "grace upon grace"...

So, what is this telling us?

- Yes, Christmas is about the birth of the Saviour...
- Yes, Christmas is about the arrival of the Son of God. ...

But what it's telling us, is the **purpose** of Christmas, is to increase the size of God's family.

The Light of Life came into the world, If we actively believe in Jesus and receive Him, ,,,

- We enter the Light; and
- His life becomes our life; and
- We're born into the family of God...

The purpose of Christmas, is so that we (who were far from God) can become children of God.

So, this Christmas:

- Receive the Light;
- Actively believe in Jesus Christ;
- Proclaim the Light; and
- be delighted, to **be** a child of God.

The Light of the World has come.

Merry Christmas, children of God.

Sentence: The Light of the World – so we can be Children of God.

Scripture: John 1:1-13

Date: 25/12/2024

Name: Michael Brumpton

Location: St George

Page: 12 of 12

Bush Disciples