

5. What hope does recapturing the light give in life's darkest moments?

6. How can we be more excited about the king than what is ahead for us?

7. What habits help us to truly follow the light? How can we manifest the light in our lives in a meaningful way?

Beyond the Manger - Part 5

"Light Leading to Life"

John 1:4-5,9

Because light and life are foundational to our faith, we need to:

1. _____ the Light.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. (John 1:4)

Genesis 1:1-4

We will follow whatever captures our imagination. There are plenty of voices that promise of the good life, fulfillment, and meaning. We, as the church, have the creator of the good life, fulfillment, and meaning, and when we strip the magic and wonder of life with God- it's no wonder we _____ darkness for light.

"We are in need of enlightenment, we are not the light. You're going to entrust yourself to somebody. Would you entrust yourself to the One who gave himself for you?" (Augustine)

2. _____ the Light.

The True light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world (John 1:9)

Matthew 2:6

That first Christmas, light entered the world. The true light that gives light to everyone came into the world, and people _____ it.

"People regularly point to God's indifference to human tragedy and pain. If only God would appear and accept some responsibility or give some help, then perhaps they would recognize and follow him. In fact, as this gospel makes clear again and again, he is not indifferent; he does care. Indeed he could not care more, and it is because of this that he came. But when he came he was ignored. [...] would it be different if he came again?" (Bruce Milne)

The Bible says that Jesus is the light of the world. If you know you are in his love, and that nothing can snatch you out of his hand, and that he is taking you to God's house and God's future- then he can be a light for you in dark places when all other lights go out. His love for you now- and this infallible hope for the future- are indeed a light in the darkness, by which we can find our way. (Tim Keller)

3. _____ the Light.

The Christian life can seem normal, but it's completely abnormal. Because it goes beyond doing things for God. Following the light means seeing that light as _____.

What does it look like to truly follow the light?

- See God's _____.
- Enter into _____.
- Pray.

Prayer is where _____ plays out in life.

Emblems of the Infinite King: Enter the Knowledge of the Living God by J. Ryan Lister and illustrated by Anthony M. Benedetto.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. How are we tempted to live as our own lights or follow false lights?

3. Why is it so important to understand the light?

4. Why is it hard to see the true light? What distracts us?