

Personal Study

No Darkness • Week of December 22

What a gift it would be this Christmas – if *all* our family, friends, neighbors (indeed, our world) decided to walk away from darkness and step into the light! What if *you* decided to truly step into the light? Think about it. Perhaps we would witness the coming of Christ’s Kingdom, His will being ‘done on earth as it is in Heaven.’ How glorious! We would not even recognize this world. Darkness forever vanquished. The LORD says: “Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth and no one will even think about the old ones anymore” (Isaiah 65:17).

Read 1 John 5:1-12

1. Like a high school student who finally admits he or she needs help with an impossible subject (like Algebra II or College Calculus), each of us must admit we need help with our dark areas. Think of a time you admitted your need for help. What initially kept you from admitting that you were ‘in the dark’ about something?

What eventually brought you to ask for help?

We can live our entire lives skirting around the issue of eternity. But at some point, we will face eternity. No one is exempt (see Hebrews 9:27-28). God sent His Son to earth to save us from condemnation. God’s condemnation toward sin was placed on Jesus Christ when He died on the cross. Accept it. Salvation is God’s gift to you. “So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death” (Romans 8:1-2).

2. We will all stand before God one day. But in Christ, we do not have to stand alone in our faults and failures. Christ will stand with us if we accept Him into our hearts. While saving us cost Jesus His very life, God’s free gift of Salvation is not complicated on our part. It is so simple, even a little child can find it easy to pray and receive Jesus into their hearts. Will you receive Christ into your heart today? Pray—

Lord, I admit there is darkness in me. Deep down, I feel guilty all the time. I am tired of carrying the shame of past and current sins. I am sick of living in dread and fear of the future. Will you please help me and forgive me? Give me the courage to turn from darkness and step into the light. Lord, I can’t do this by myself. I need You. Please fill me with Your light, Your love, and Your Holy Spirit. I trust You today. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, each day choose Jesus by following Him. Remember He loves you and promises to never leave you. You no longer have to live in fear and dread. You belong to Christ. “Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into His glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to Him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are His before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen” (Jude, vv24-25).

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PLAIN TRUTH:

_____ in Jesus as Son of God gives
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1. Belief in the _____ Jesus gives us
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2. _____ God and _____ People.
3. Loving God means _____ his _____.
4. Jesus gives new birth from _____ and the
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December 21 & 22, 2019

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