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**Sermon: *“Sharing the Light of Christmas”***

**Scripture: Luke 1:76-79**

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, December 22, 2019

**Introduction:**

**The joy of Christmas is that God, in his tender mercy, sent light & hope through Jesus into our darkness & doom.** *(Isaiah 9:2; Matthew 4:13-17)*

1. **The rising sun brought light to give hope.** *(Luke 1:79a; Psalm 107:10-16; Matthew 4:16)*

**Could it be that Christmas is not so delightful to us,**

**because sin is not so disturbing to us?**

**Without the light of Christ, mankind is hopelessly doomed.** *(Isaiah 42:6-7)*

* **Blinded in ignorance.** *(Isaiah 42:6-7)*
* **Imprisoned by sin.** *(Romans 6:16-17; 2 Peter 2:19)*

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay*

*Fast bound in sin and nature's night;*

*Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,*

*I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;*

*My chains fell off, my heart was free;*

*I rose, went forth and followed Thee.*

***Charles Wesley, “And Can It Be” (Verse 4)***

1. **The risen son is the light to be followed.** *(Luke 1:79b; John 8:12)*

**The “Sunrise from on high” inspires a response in the one it redeems:**

**repentance, faith, obedience, love & worship.**

1. **Christ is the light that guides us from assured judgment into His assuring peace.** *(Isaiah 53:6; 59:8-9; Luke 2:14; 2 Corinthians 5:20)*
2. **Christ is the light leads us from impending death to eternal life.** *(John 1:4; 8:12)*

**Conclusion:**

**The formerly doomed are now ambassadors to sin’s death row, sharing the gift of the Risen Son!**  *(Matthew 5:14-16)*

**Questions to Consider:**

1. Why is “sitting in darkness, in the shadow of darkness” so fitting for the unsaved sinner?
2. How desperate is/was your darkness? Do you remain in the shadow of death? Why or why not?
3. Why is the poetic description, “the sunrise from on high” especially helpful in describing the incarnation and ministry of Jesus?
4. A beautiful sunrise evokes a response from us. What kind of response ought we have to the “sunrise from on high”?
5. What is the way of peace in which light of Christ guides us?
6. How is our role as ambassadors for Christ similar to John’s role?