

Getting Started

1. Are you afraid of the dark? Is there a room in your home where you will not go if it is dark?
2. When you think of the light of the world, what kind of light do you picture? (Sun, lamp, candle, etc.)
3. Do you take your role as light of the world seriously?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 17

Q. Why must the mediator also be true God?

A. So that the mediator, by the power of his divinity, might bear the weight of God's wrath in his humanity and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.¹

¹ Isa. 53; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21

Jesus says his authority is from God, but he also has authority because he is God. Why the distinction in John 8:12-30? Why is Jesus' divinity important?

6. Read Hebrews 10:1-18. Did the sacrifices remove sin? If not, why were they offered?
7. Read 1 John 1:5-10. What do we have to do to be in the light? Can we be in darkness and light?
8. In John 12:44-50, Jesus talks about the light and his authority. Why does it matter where his authority comes from?

Application

9. The world is in darkness due to sin. Since Jesus has come, his light has overcome the darkness. When we put our faith in Christ we receive the gift of salvation and our sins are forgiven. We then are called to be light in a dark world. How are you spreading the light?

Bible Reading Questions

December 12 – Acts 20-23 – After being beaten Paul wants to speak to the crowd and preach the gospel. How would he have acted in that situation?

December 13 – Acts 24-26 – Paul endured so much while in prison, yet kept his faith and continued to preach the gospel. How do you respond to adversity? Do you turn to God?

December 14 – Acts 27-28 – Paul is eventually given special treatment as a prisoner, why? What does this teach us about being in the right?

December 15 – Colossians, Philemon – We learn a lot about Christ in Colossians. Did this book help you understand Jesus in a new or different light?

December 16 – Ephesians – Ephesians draws our attention to how we must live as the children of God. What are we to put off and what are we to take on?

December 17 – Philippians – Is it possible to be completely mature in the Christian faith?

December 18 – 1 Timothy – We read of several reasons people are led astray. What are they? What may be leading you astray?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · December 11, 2016

The Meaning of Christmas

“Overcoming the Darkness”

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

- **Jesus is the _____ of the _____.**

- **Before Jesus had come, the world was in _____.**

- **The light has _____ the _____.**

Topics: Salvation, sin, hope, evangelism