

Those who Dwelt in Darkness - Isaiah 9:1-6
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

NOTE - This week we have a guest preacher, Evan Skelton. Evan is the Church Planting Pastor of Bayless Church in South St. Louis County. Bayless is a Replant, or a new church planted from the remnant of a previous church. Genesis Church is honored to be a supporting church for Pastor Evan and his leadership of Bayless Church. We are honored to have Evan, his wife Grace, and their family with us this morning.

Isaiah 9:1-5 is one of the most famous passages to hear at Christmas time, but I think the longing found in this passage is one we can all empathize with during these days. Just listen to v. 2: [2] The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (ESV)

Aren't we all longing for an end to our own darkness? If this pandemic has taught us anything is that our lives, even our society, is a fragile thing. But in this passage, God promises that the solution to all of our longings has already come. Light has come to the people who dwelt in darkness through Jesus Christ, the one called Mighty Counselor, Everlasting Father, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Through him joy has come to the broken-hearted, freedom for the pressed-down, peace for the war-torn. Through him has come final and full salvation.

How can we experience this kind of "light" when our times grow dark, and may grow darker still? Not by mustering up our resolve or adding to our inner resume, but by simply seeing that light. Beholding it. Setting our eyes upon him and drawing the eyes of others to him as well.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Hosea 10	Hosea 11	Hosea 12	Hosea 13	Hosea 14	John 1	John 2

Reading from this past week: Isaiah 9:1-6

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 1:1-17

Family Worship

Song - *Behold the Lamb of God*

<https://youtu.be/ZFEK68ncZ7o>

Gospel Project

Story: Jesus returned to heaven.

Story Point: Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission

Big Picture Question: Where is Jesus now?

Answer: Jesus ascended to heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

Scripture: Matthew 28

New City Catechism

Question #49: Where is Christ now?

Answer: Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Verse: Ephesians 1:20-21

Scripture

Isaiah 9:1-6

*Do you know anyone who feels like they are "walking in darkness" right now? Have you ever experienced something like this?

*In what ways do you see others respond to the sufferings, discouragements, and "darkness" they face, instead of looking for hope from God's grace?

*Our passage reminds us that Jesus has brought joy to the broken-hearted, freedom for the pressed-down, peace for the war-torn. Why do you need to be reminded of this right now? Who else in your life could use this good news?

*How does this good news change the way we should live in dark times?

Prayer

*Use Psalm 20 in your prayer this week

*During the first week of Advent, pray that as we wait for the coming of Jesus we would have the hope that only He gives.

*Pray that people who are walking in darkness would see great light.