

Greenvine Baptist Church

Newsletter

January 3, 2022

When you are here you are Home



Let it Shine

This newsletter will give you my thoughts that I had put together for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service that we have missed due to so much sickness among our folks. I had put together a devotional on “Light.” Seemed appropriate being that it was the culmination of our Advent services which centered around the 5 candles that we used in our weekly services. As we begin, let me simply say what you already know about light...Light dispels darkness. Not the other way around. Darkness is the absence of light. Darkness cannot overtake light. Light is always in control. Light literally trumps darkness. Such an appropriate picture as used in Scripture to represent Jesus Christ and He in the world. I am reminded that at the very first in the Book of Genesis at the creation account, that God said in Genesis 1: 1-4, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.” Throughout the ages, light has been associated with goodness and darkness with evil. We even refer to our most difficult times as our “dark times.” Even Scripture refers to being in fellowship with God as “Walking in the light.” You may recall that in Exodus, during Israel’s wandering in the desert, the Lord showed Himself among them by light. At night, the presence of the Lord was indicated by the pillar of fire, giving off light, hovering over the Tabernacle in the wilderness. God was shown to be with His earthly people by the light shining in darkness. There was also the “Skekinah Glory that was in the Holy of Holies when the Lord was present with the atoning sacrifice that was made once a year by the High Priest. God was characterized by light. The Psalmist, David writes in Psalm 18 about “Who God is.” He says this in verse 28, “You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.” This is an Old Testament reference to the God of Israel being completely in control, and guiding the people of Israel by His righteous hand. God with us. Emmanuel. David knew it. David experienced it. It is recorded for us and kept for us to remind us of God’s great love for us and His presence with us. The prophet Isaiah writes a couple of times referencing light and the coming Messiah. Chapter 2: 5 says, “Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” The reminder that we are to be committed to walking after Him, no matter what the circumstance. Then in Chapter 9: 2, he writes, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death.” The great promise about 800 years prior to the coming of Jesus to the world as a child. Light coming into darkness. However, as we will see, the darkness did not comprehend it. Imagine. Darkness being overcome by light, and people not recognizing the light. New Testament shows us the truth of that light coming into the world. John’s Gospel starts like this: John 1: 1 - 5: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John explains to us the truth of God and Jesus being one in the same, and bringing Spiritual life to a dead and dying world. But, by the most part, He was not recognized as such. Even Isaiah says, “He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief.” John continues his look at light with chapter 3: 21, “Whoever lives by truth comes to the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what He has done has been done through God.” Then in chapter 8: 12, “Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Jesus offering to us, the light of righteousness. Truth. Salvation. Light. Paul reminds us in the Book of Ephesians what our situation has become. Chapter 5:8; “For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.” Our walk in Christ; being a devoted follower of His alone, is characterized by walking in “the light.” The light of God with us. Peter says, “but you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” Then, John again writes of that light in 1 John 1: 7, “If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.” We represent that light to the world around us. If the dark world is to see the light of God, it is because they see a glimpse of the light in our lives.

Jesus said in Luke 8, “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.” Jesus is quoted by Matthew in this: “You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” We have the distinct responsibility to shine that light to others. No matter what circumstances you find yourselves facing as we enter into 2022, you are to be light. The light of the world. Dispelling darkness and revealing the light of God. You have the gift of life to share by shining your light. Karen and I have a small aromatic candle for your family to share to remind you of your being involved in the world today. “Let your light shine.” Let this small candle remind you of your responsibility to shine for Jesus. Be involved in dispelling darkness. Show others, “God with us.” May this coming year bring you many opportunities to shine your light. Blessings upon each of you. Take advantage of dispelling darkness. Jack & Karen.

Upcoming Events

Bible Study

We will start our Timothy study back on Wednesday January 5 @ 6pm

Greenvine Girl's of Grace

Tuesday January 11 @ 6pm

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday January 26 @ 7am

Prayer Requests

Pray for all of those in our church and our families that have been sick.

Jack and Karen's Nephew – He is on meds and doing better

Karen – Pray that her wrist continues to improve and for her returning to work this month.

Debbie Reed's granddaughter Brittany and husband Raymond lost their baby at 10 weeks. Please pray for comfort for this family.

Billy Montgomery as he heals from a quadruple by-pass

Raymond Anderson has not been feeling well. Please pray for healing.

Mary and Chuck's granddaughter Brecken for comfort and healing

Patty's sister Thelma – Pray for healing in her feet

Carol's sister Lynn has bronchitis and now has Covid. She is high risk due to lung issues.

Sandra's daughter Alicia now has Covid. She is taking care of her 92 yr old mother in law and also a school teacher.

Please remember the Chapdelaine family in the loss of Robert. Pray for Stacy (Rob's Wife) as she is struggling with this loss. Stacy has decided to move back to Montana where her and Robert's family are. Pray for peace during this move.

Debbie Reed – Recovering from injection in her back

Donna Richardson – Recovering from leg amputation. She has been moved to rehab and hopes to go home for Christmas

Lois – Friend of the Rutlands – Fell and hit her head. She is feeling better. Please pray for continued healing

Ricky Eckert recovering from a leg amputation.

Neal Lampe has come home. Please pray for continued healing and support for this family

Carolyn Cox -Pray for continued healing

Geri Smart's daughter has had her last chemo treatment. Pray for continued healing

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter recovering from pneumonia and other health issues .

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Pulliam's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Brayden Lopez - Mental and Spiritual health

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues - Please remember Bob's family in the loss of his brother

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Lee Ehring's brother, Bill Hoot, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please pray for healing as he begins his treatment

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse