

# CHRIST IS COME AS A LIGHT TO THE “LIVING” DEAD!

Copyright 2016 - <http://lookingfortheLostTruthsofJesus.org>

**NOTE:** - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

## CHRIST HAS COME AS A LIGHT FOR THOSE DWELLING IN THE LAND OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH: -

- The following prophecy from the pen of the prophet Isaiah refers to the coming of the Messiah imparting light to those people who are in spiritual darkness and who are dwelling in the land of the shadow of death.  
*“Nevertheless the dimness [shall] not [be] such as [was] in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict [her by] the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” (Isaiah 9:1 & 2.)*

That this prophecy did indeed apply to Jesus’ public ministry at the time of his 1<sup>st</sup> Advent, is recorded for us in Matthew’s gospel.  
*“And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, [by] the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.” (Matthew 4:13-16.)*

## MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT THEY ARE A “GOOD PERSON”:-



It is hard for many people in our western, ever increasing secularized society to accept the truth that they are sitting “*in the region and shadow of death*” (Matthew 4:16) for whom Jesus Christ has caused light to spring up. Many people in our society are self-deceived as to their true condition and standing before their Maker, even boldly proclaiming concerning themselves, “*I am a good person*”; or, “*I am not a sinner*”. These people have no need for the Christian gospel and its message of a Saviour and salvation, because they do not see their individual need for salvation, as they do not sense their lost condition.

Such people think that they are completely insulated from the wrath of God. But they are totally self-deceived. They don’t realize that they are in reality “*a dead person walking*”.

The old saying that “**self recommendation is no recommendation**” is absolutely true in spiritual matters as in other areas of life. As the great apostle Paul has stated: - “*For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.*” (2 Corinthians 10:18.) What we think about ourselves is of no consequence as far as eternal realities are concerned. **It is what God thinks of us that counts!**

Such self-deceived people stumble at the words of Christ, that no one is good except God. They would find the following words extremely offensive to their pride.

*“And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Matthew 19:16 & 17.)*

## UNREGENERATE HUMANITY IS NOT INHERENTLY GOOD: -

- Are people naturally good? Is there some inherent goodness in humanity? These are vital questions to answer. Jesus' words leave us in no doubt, that the heart of humanity is the source of nothing but evil deeds and thoughts. Again, this teaching of Christ would be offensive to such self-deceived people.  
*"And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."* (Mark 7:20-23.)
- We have to face reality about ourselves, that we **cannot** help ourselves out of the pit of sin that we find ourselves in.  
*"Who can bring a clean [thing] out of an unclean? not one."* (Job 14:4.)  
*"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? [then] may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."* (Jeremiah 13:23.)

## WE ARE ALL LOST SINNERS IN OUR MAKER'S SIGHT: -

- The Scriptures loudly proclaim the absolute lost and sinful condition of **all humanity** in the following passages.  
*"For [there is] no man that sinneth not"* (1 Kings 8:46.)  
*"The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, [there is] none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, [and] seek God. They are all gone aside, they are [all] together become filthy: [there is] none that doeth good, no, not one."* (Psalms 14:1-3.)  
*"For [there is] not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."* (Ecclesiastes 7:20.)  
*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."* (Isaiah 53:6.)  
*"What then? are we better [than they]? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."* (Romans 3:9-12.)  
*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23.)  
*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* (Romans 5:12.)  
*"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* (1 John 1:8.)

## THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH: -

- The soul that sins shall die. The Scriptural teaching on this point is very clear.  
*"Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die."* (Ezekiel 18:4.)  
*"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."* (Ezekiel 18:20.)  
*"For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things [is] death."* (Romans 6:20 & 21.)  
*"For the wages of sin [is] death"* (Romans 6:23.)  
*"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."* (James 1:15.)

## NO ONE CAN ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT OF GOD: -

- Death and the Judgment Seat of Christ await all people. This is something that no person can escape. *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* (Hebrews 9:27.)

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad."* (2 Corinthians 5:10.)

*"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds."* (Romans 2:5 & 6.)

## "DEAD PEOPLE" WALKING: -

- Without Christ we are **as dead men and women walking about**. The judicial sentence of **the wrath and condemnation of God and eternal death** hangs over the head of every person in the world, who is without Christ.

*"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* (John 3:18.)

*"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."* (John 3:36.)

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* (John 5:24.)

*"And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"* (Ephesians 2:1-5.)

*"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses."* (Colossians 2:13.)

*"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death."* (1 John 3:14.)

## TEMPORAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS MEAN NOTHING TO OUR MAKER: -

- It makes no difference if people want to comfort themselves with the deception that they think they are a good person. *"After all, I don't kill people. I don't steal from people. I don't commit adultery with another persons' spouse. I am a law-abiding citizen. I work hard at my profession. I have achieved financial success in my life. I know that I am a good person."*

The Bible clears away all such false hopes, with the solemn truth that if we do not know the God of the Bible, and if we do not obey the gospel of Christ, punishment is all that awaits us - **the punishment of eternal destruction.**

*"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.)

- Financial success and temporal accomplishments cannot shelter any one from the wrath of God. Only righteousness can do that. *"Lo, [this is] the man [that] made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, [and] strengthened himself in his wickedness."* (Psalms 52:7.)

*"Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death."* (Proverbs 11:4.)

☞ Before we can impress any person with the loveliness and beauty of Christ and his gospel message of salvation, they need to be convicted by the Word and Spirit of God of this sobering truth of their hopeless condition before they come to Christ: -

*"That at that time ye were without Christ, ... having no hope, and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12).*

### **CHRIST IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: -**

- Jesus did indeed proclaim concerning himself, *"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).*

*"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:5.)*

The apostle John records for us concerning the coming of Christ into this world, *"[That] was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John 1:9.)*

John also wrote concerning the revealing of light that has come to the world through the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent of Christ, *"the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth" (1 John 2:8).*

- Jesus himself proclaimed concerning those who were to believe in him, *"I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." (John 12:46.)*
- The godly man Simeon proclaimed concerning the infant Saviour, *"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." (Luke 2:32.)*
- The apostle Paul when on trial for his faith stated, *"That Christ should suffer, [and] that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:23.)*
- The apostle Paul describes the gospel in the following glowing terms, *"the light of the glorious gospel of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4).*
- Paul also wrote that Christ is the One who gives us light.  
*"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." (Ephesians 5:14.)*

Paul also wrote to Timothy, that *"our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10).*

### **THE INVITATION OF THE GOSPEL FOR THOSE WHO ARE "THE LIVING DEAD" – COME TO CHRIST AND LIVE: -**

*"Say unto them, [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11.)*

*"Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30.)*

*"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:40.)*

*"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).*