

## Christmas Shines in the Darkest of Places

Isaiah 9:2-3a, 6-7

### I. \_\_\_\_\_ begins in the dark

#### A. The reality of darkness

Children frequently fear the dark--we keep closet doors shut at night.

As adults we fear the dark as well. Such fear is called nyctophobia.

Our fears and anxieties are \_\_\_\_\_ of another kind – no closet door shut them out.

#### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word

##### 1. Trouble inside

"\_\_\_\_\_ has become my closest companion." [Psalm 88:18]

##### 2. Inside trouble--our \_\_\_\_\_ problem

The poetry of the \_\_\_\_\_ nail the bad news – this darkness, fog, and gloom

"Long lay the world/In sin and error \_\_\_\_\_"

The \_\_\_\_\_ focus of Advent: longing for the first and second comings of the Lord

#### C. Advent begins in the dark – it is about longing for the coming of the Lord

Advent anticipates the light, but does not rush out of the darkness

##### 1. Vs. \_\_\_\_\_

##### 2. Vs. \_\_\_\_\_ through busyness and entertainment

#### D. Light at the end of \_\_\_\_\_

Glimmers of light scattered throughout the Old Testament

*"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...."* [Isaiah 9:2]

*"The \_\_\_\_\_ shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death"* [Zechariah's prophecy, Luke 1:78b-79a]

### II. Light from the \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. The birth of Jesus was in "the \_\_\_\_\_ mid-winter"--close to the winter solstice

#### B. Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12; 12"46]

*"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."*

[John 12:46]

#### C. Jesus went through deep darkness to bring us into the light

Darkness at \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross [Matthew 27:45-46]

### III. Light in this present darkness – the Son is the \_\_\_\_\_ of night

#### A. Run toward the Light--like the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ down before the Light

#### C. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Light

*"The unfolding of your Word brings light"* [Psalm 119:130]

#### D. \_\_\_\_\_ the Light

Our Savior continues to light up dark places

*"He comes to make His blessings flow/Far as the curse is found"*