

Refuge City Church — December 25, 2022
“Light of the World” Part 4 [John 8:12]

“Light of the World”

- We're here this morning to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!
 - You've heard the story.
 - You may be contemplating your 'role' as one of the characters in the Christmas Story.
 - But allow me a moment to talk about the greatest star, in the greatest story ever told!
- Jesus came to give us life.
 - **John 10:10**, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. [Satan will always try and steal the show, to try and upstage Jesus] I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
 - The role you're focusing on for this next year is only dependent upon who Jesus is!
 - **John 1:4-5**, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
- What are we granted in the life that Jesus gives us?
 - A human shell with breath in our lungs? Is that it??
 - When God breathed into Adam, and into us, He grants us not only physical life, but spiritual as well! It's the light of wisdom & understanding.
 - The light of knowledge we've been given is of God, His righteousness, and all that can separate us from Him [sin].
- When we're given life in Christ, we have the light of God in us, because “...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” [John 1:5]
 - We then either choose to accept and keep that light burning, or allow the light to burn out, and be enveloped by darkness. [God allows us that choice]
 - **Example:** Family tradition of driving around looking at Christmas lights.
- The baby in that manger is the Light of God come into this world to give us life and salvation!
 - Jesus came to dispel the darkness of ignorance, sin, and death.
 - **John 8:12**, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- Let's consider another set of characters from our Christmas Story:
 - *The Wise Men*. They followed the star [the bright light of that star compared to all the others in the night sky] — seeking to find Jesus and worship Him!
 - If you're considering another role to your life in this upcoming year...
 - **QUESTION:** Like the wise men, are you willing to risk your fortune and your life to follow His light, and come to Him?
- Allow me to add one more character to the Christmas Story — the Star!

- **Numbers 24:17**, “...a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel...”
- That star is Jesus! Who not only proclaimed to be the Light of the World, but also...
- “I am...the bright morning star.” **[Revelation 22:16]**
 - In today’s astronomy circles, there is a ‘star’ referred to as a morning and evening star = the planet Venus [3rd brightest light in the sky behind the sun & moon]
 - It is the brightest light in the sky just before the darkness of night, and the brightest light in the sky just before the sun rises.
 - Jesus never leaves us in complete darkness!
- **Matthew 2:1-2, 9**, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’... After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.”
 - They followed the light of the star to find and worship the Light of the World.
 - As the Israelites followed God’s light and presence through the wilderness to salvation, so we follow the Light of Christ in this dark world.
 - As ancient sailors navigated the seas by the stars...
 - As modern ships found safety by the ever-preset light of the lighthouse...
 - As the wise men followed the light of the star...
 - We are to trust in the Light of the World as He says to us, “Follow Me.”
- **2 Peter 1:19**, “And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,”
 - Look to the word of God, as all of it points to Jesus! **[John 1:1]**
 - Look to the Light. He provides us hope. He provides us salvation.
- **Colossians 1:13-15**, “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”
- This is what we celebrate today!
- The coming of the Light of the World, the Light of Salvation, the Bright Morning Star.
 - Follow Him. Worship Him. Trust in Him.
 - In Him alone will you have life and light, and can therefore be who Jesus calls us to be...
 - **John 12:36**, “Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.”