

The True Light Has Come. We Must Go.

John 1:9-14, 18

MPS Jesus came into the world as the true light of God for salvation to all who believe; therefore, Christ-followers must Go.

OBJ Every person should believe in Jesus and every Christ-follower go share the gospel because of four simple truths.

INTRO I recently read a book titled "Dis-Information". Written by a Lt. Gen. of the Romanian Intelligence service who is the highest-ranking official to have ever defected from a hostile intelligence service, the book tells the story of how the Communist propaganda machine of the mid-20th Century used strategic communication of misinformation to re-write history, manipulate records and documents, undermine governments and churches, and re-shaped countries. To say the least, and the author helps make these connections, it is scary without measure or conscience. And it sounds and feels eerily familiar.

TRANS In a season of great confusion, conspiratorial deception, continuing schism of the church, and not knowing who to listen to or trust, one can quickly understand how so many are losing hope, and wonder when or how it may ever be found again. Today I remind us that the True Light that has come, Jesus Christ, and our commission to go because He has come.

READ John 1:9-14, 18

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. **John 1:9-14,18***

Jesus came into the world as the true light of God for salvation to all who believe; therefore, Christ-followers must Go.

OBJ **Four Simple Truths** for all to believe that commission every Christ-follower to Go.

1. **Jesus is the true light who has come into the world. .9**

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John begins the introduction to his gospel with this statement about Jesus, that He is the true light. In the opening verses we are introduced to Jesus' divine, eternal nature. Here, divinity pierces humanity by incarnation. He who was not human but divine, became human so He could bring what was not of man, but divine, to man; true light. He is not only a light, but the source of all light. All that light is to man He is for man. He is not just one characteristic of light in some singular situation or circumstance, but is every quality of light at all times in every way and to every measure of fullness; **Jesus, the Divine One, who is Light came to be life for all!**

Friends, before you light birthday candles to sing a hearty "happy birthday to Jesus", remember; Jesus is God who came as the light of the world, the One who gives light to all men. Jesus' birth is about WHO was born, revealed in the way He was born; God has come to us. Jesus is God incarnate; Immanuel, God with us. Light a candle to proclaim that this is WHO He is for us, light of man who has come as life. **When you light a candle, remember WHO has come, the Light of life!**

Jesus is the Light of life; eyes that see, a way made known; mind informed and intellect convinced; heart engulfed with true, deep affections ablaze, stoked and stirred; volition commanded by conviction anchored; comfort brought, security wrought; darkness gone, heaviness removed, and anxiousness calmed; the balm of Gilead^{Jer8:22} for the wounded spirit, the Great Physician who heals the mortal soul^{Ex15:26}; He is peace for the weary, joy for the brokenhearted, love for the isolated and alone. Where your darkness resides, Jesus shines as Light for life. And in hearing today, light shines for life to be received; **Jesus is the true light who has come into the world.**



2. Jesus knew the world before He came, but the world did not know Him. .10

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

John tells us that Jesus entered into the world not un-informed of all that had transpired, but with perfect understanding.

How does He have this perfect understanding?

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col 1:16-17

Jesus knows the world by His continuing presence; He is before all things, He's always been present. Jesus knows the world by His role in its existence; He is the originator and sustainer of all that is, the One **by** whom, **through** whom and **for** whom all things were created.^{Col1:16} And, Jesus knows the world has indifferently rejected Him; He's everywhere, YET unrecognized, dishonored, and rejected. **The world purports knowledge of God but it is Jesus who perfectly understands all things.**

3. Jesus was rejected by His own people, but to all who believe in Him He gives life with God. .11-13

¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Jesus was rejected, not by those most removed from Him or foreign to him, but by His own. This is the violation and betrayal of intimacy in its highest form, anything of its likeness and measure completely foreign to our experience or understanding. Jesus came home to find the lights off, the door barricaded, and the inhabitants hostile. Jesus came into the world at a time of great chaos and confusion. The propaganda machine was working overtime in the First Century because the Accuser himself, the one whose very nature is deception, was unleashing his army of deception against God's true light. But in the midst of all the mis-information, all the blinding confusion, and all the deceiving accusation, **Jesus gives eternal life with God to all who believe in Him; birth that comes not of the flesh nor will of man, not even of the cumulative efforts, but birth to new life from God.**

4. Jesus came and revealed God to the whole world. .14, 18

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

When Jesus was born, God was revealed; this is Who He is. And what we see is One who is full of grace and truth. All we search and long for, all need and desire, He is here and full of all that satisfies us for true life. **Jesus is the light, the glory that shines from God to give us life.**

TRANS Just as the light of the star pierced the sky that night long ago that the shepherds first saw and followed to Jesus, so we share the One who IS that light with all people, and invite them into the eternal life from God that only He gives.

Therefore, as Christ-followers, we must...

...Go,

God has come to us in Jesus Christ. Our commission and command by Jesus to Go into all the world reflects that love He has shown us, that we are to take and to share with all peoples of the world.

...allowing nothing to distract, thwart, hinder, nor stop us,

We could easily rationalize or justify why "now is not the right time", why "sacrifice is too high a price to pay", why "prudence or common sense may counsel us otherwise", why "the situation is beyond our control or ability to help", but none of these reflect what God did for us in Jesus Christ. For, as we just saw, He had every right and justification not to come, YET He came.

...and tell the world that Jesus, the true light of God, has come to bring eternal life.



The One for whom every person longs and needs has come; His name is Jesus.

Jesus came into the world as the true light of God for salvation to all who believe; therefore, Christ-followers must Go.

So, HOW do we GO, how does LifePoint pursue the Great Commission for Gospel impact?

We implement a number of strategies, overall, with a priority on church planting. We want our work to produce something that outlasts only our presence or labors. So, in all our work we give priority to planting and strengthening local churches.

IMB Slide In December we focus on global impact through our Impact Partner, International Mission Board. With over 3500 missionaries worldwide, outside of North America, the International Mission Board is the largest mission sending agency in the world, and in history. Every dollar from our Global mission offering goes directly to support missionaries on the field.

You can give to the global mission offering here in-person by noting on the envelop when you place your offering in the receptacle, or when you give online through the dropdown menu.

Through the years LifePoint has partnered to send a number of our own people to the nations through IMB, mostly recently Ethan and Rachel Holden who recently returned after serving two years in Peru. Today I want to introduce you to another LifePoint couple who we will be sending out in the next few months to serve the nations.

Interview: Adam & Lauren Yeargin

MLH (Intro Yeargins) Adam and Lauren, welcome. You have been pursuing a call to serve the Lord by taking the gospel to the nations. **Tell us a little about how this call came about and developed.**

A/L (6-7mins; I am mostly thinking here about background on how you each came to sense the call, missions trips, involvement, etc. You are welcome to break up your responses between the two of you any way you want.)

MLH So, you have applied to the IMB for assessment and evaluation. What **can you tell us about this process?**

A/L (3-4mins; Here I am wanting to expose people to the high need to prepare well for the field and the work. I am not looking for you to share what you personally have worked through, but just the process and how it has confirmed and strengthened your call, and prepared you.)

MLH **Would you be willing to share what the most challenging aspect of this process has been for you?**

A/L (3-4mins; Here I am thinking about how you've made big decisions to sell your house to prepare, how the process has caused you to doubt and learn about spiritual warfare, etc. So, a little bit off the last question, but more personal application, etc. Make sense?)

MLH **Can you share a little about the value of the local church, and how we can pray for and support you in your call?**

A/L (Here I would love to you to talk a bit about how the Advocacy team has been such a help, and how you need one as well. Share about your timeline to training, field, etc. Then, end with some specific prayer requests for you.)

