

## From Darkness to Light: Peace

1. The incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, is our foundation.
  - A. Christmas is no myth. It's not a cute story.
    - B. The validity of Christianity is not based on our experiences; it's based on him and his Word.
  - B. The eternal Son of God really did come to earth from another realm to save us.
    - A. He was actually placed in Mary's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit to be our redeemer.
      1. Fully God and fully man, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
      2. He came to die for our sins (Gal. 3:13).
      3. He came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).
      4. He came to rise for our right standing before God (Rom. 4:25).
      5. And he really is building his church with himself as the foundation (Eph. 2:20). It's all true. Do you believe this? You must follow him.
    - B. The foundation—the cornerstone—is dependable.
      1. You can trust him. Isaiah tells us that this is “a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will be unshakable” (28:16, CSB).
      2. Jesus is acquainted with our griefs (53:3). He knows heartache and suffering.
      3. When your house is built on Christ and his Word, you are unshakable (Matt. 7:24–25).
      4. The storms will come. You will sway in the wind, and you will be beaten by the rain. A new roof, walls, and flooring may be needed—but the foundation holds. You are held fast in him.
      5. On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand.  
  
His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.
2. There may be strife and waiting in life.
  - A. Waiting may be painful.
    1. It may be persistent. But waiting is not vain or uncertain.
    2. We know that when we see Jesus we will be made like him. (1 John 3:2)
  - B. No one whose hope is in the Lord will be put to shame.
    1. And so we face the waiting, as unpleasant as it may be.
      2. And we rest in the goodness of the One who keeps his promises. He promised a child would be born to us, and so he was. That child promised the new life that would be born in each of us, and so it shall be.
  - C. In the dark, in the unrest, we may feel abandoned, even unloved and forgotten.
    1. Peace may be missing. What are we to do? We keep leaning in toward the light.
    2. Jeremiah helps us at this point.

Lamentations 3:31-33 “For the Lord will not reject forever, 32 For if He causes grief, Then He will have compassion In proportion to His abundant mercy. 33 For He does not afflict willingly Or grieve the sons of mankind.”

3. Leaning in toward Jesus is an act of faith, because sometimes the darkness seems so overwhelming. But it is only in the true light that we flourish.

John 1:9 “This was the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person.”

#### 4. Grief over loss, and hope over gospel gain.

##### A. Some of us are deeply grieving in this season.

The loss you have experienced is overwhelming. And yet, you know that God is still working in the loss, in the darkness. You keep leaning in to Jesus. You know that even in the unrest of life, that God is on your side.

##### B. John writes about our future with great hope.

Revelation 21:23-25 “And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;”

1. John acknowledges the unwelcome darkness of suffering. He writes about the glory of Christ with a profound sense of how dark things can get. Yet, he puts the night on notice.

2. One day there will be no more night. Life will be so peaceful and safe that the gates of the city will never need to be closed.

#### 5. Light can break into our lives right now.

##### A. Jesus brings light and peace into the darkness right now.

He gives the promise of eternity. He gives us hope and peace. The promise will be fulfilled in the days to come but Jesus will diminish the darkness in this moment.

##### B. Coming out of darkness into light.

Have you ever come out of a dark space into the sunlight? The light can hurt your eyes. It takes a moment to adjust. In our lives, as we come out of darkness and into light with Jesus, our eyes adjust to the brilliance of Jesus, who brings peace and hope.

##### C. We need to take a good look at Jesus.

1. Some of us know all the SS answers. We’ve won the “sword drills’ and Bible Trivia; memorized the Bible verses, played with the “flannel graph.”

2. We need to ask Jesus to “help our unbelief” (Mark 9:22-24). A father seeking help for his son, could look Jesus in the eye and say, “help my unbelief.”

Colossians 1:18-22 “He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And although you were previously alienated and hostile in attitude, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His body of flesh through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.”

