

Light of the World!

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12 (KJV)

We live in a culture that is so fast paced that we struggle to have the time to let ourselves grieve over circumstances and situations in our lives. Even in the passing of loved ones and friends most employers give very little to no bereavement leave from their jobs. They feel pushed and encouraged to rush past their emotions of anger, fear, sadness, and grief! But in our grief we need to be still and remember...

4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. 6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. 9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. 10 **Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah **Psalm 46:4-11 (KJV)****

As we celebrate this Advent Christmas season, beginning with He is the Light. Our homes will be filled with warm spices and covered with twinkly Christmas lights. Nothing wrong with any of that, but in the mist of all the commercialism it is my hope that the true reason for the season Christ's birth will become more and more evident to our fast pace yet lost and dying world that is in desperate need of His light of Salvation to shine!

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

²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. **John 17:23 (KJV)**

Darkness and light, Lament/Greif and hope are more related than we sometimes like to admit. BASICALLY, WE CAN'T APPRECIATE ONE WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING AND UNDERSTANDING THE OTHER.

Psalms 80, is a broken and humbled people crying out for their Nation, for God to take action and for His divine power to be revealed on their behalf.

Matthew Henry Commentary made this statement... He that dwelleth upon the mercy-seat, is the good Shepherd of his people. But we can neither expect the comfort of his love, nor the protection of his arm, unless we partake of his converting grace. If God is really angry at the prayers of his people, it is because, although they pray, their ends are not right, or there is some secret sin indulged in them, or he is trying their patience and perseverance in prayer.

Here is an important fact... When God is displeased with his people, we must expect to see them in tears, and their enemies in triumph. There is no salvation but from God's favour; and there is no conversion with God but by his own grace.

In verses 1-6 The Psalmist complains of the misery of the Church, which they brought upon themselves, then in verse 7 he says...

⁷ Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. **Psalms 80:7 (KJV)**

We must remember what God has done for us...

⁸ Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. ⁹ Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land. **Psalms 80:8-9 (KJV)**

¹⁴ Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine; ¹⁵ And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch *that* thou madest strong for thyself. ¹⁶ *It is burned with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.* ¹⁷ Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man *whom* thou madest strong for thyself. ¹⁸ So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. ¹⁹ Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, **cause thy face to shine**; and we shall be saved. **Psalm 80:14-19 (KJV)**

Allow the light of Jesus' presence fill your heart this Christmas season! So that the world may glorify the Father, and know He is with us!!

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. **(Immanuel means – God with us!) Isaiah 7:14**

Christmas still reminds us that God is with us. If you are lonely this Christmas season, let Christ light up your life! Either through a first time relationship with Him as savior, or maybe you need to return to a right relationship as His child!