

Christian Life Notes

OREGON DISTRICT LWML VOLUME 16 – JANUARY 2018

The Light of Life

And Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

One of the fun things about the Christmas season is enjoying the large variety of lights and other decorations that show up in yards and on houses and buildings. However, as I was walking through the neighborhood one morning in December, I noticed the white and orange electric cords that were used to create the lights at night. They were run across yards, through bushes, around tree trunks and even up the sides of some of the houses. They were not at all attractive. In fact, they looked totally out of place. What was hidden in the darkness was exposed in the light of day to be quite ugly.

And then I thought of sin. When it is kept in the darkness, it is not discernable to others to see. We can look pretty good on the outside, but when exposed to the light, we cannot hide the inappropriateness and ugliness of sin in our life. But this is just what Jesus wants us to do — to bring our brokenness and sinful nature into His light so it can be dealt with through the redemption that is available to us through our faith in Jesus' coming, His death to pay the penalty we owe, and His resurrection which is our promise of eternal life with Him.

From Genesis through Revelation, the Bible contrasts light and darkness. See these Old Testament verses:

Genesis 1:3-4

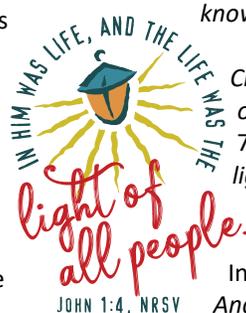
Job 30:26

Psalms 27:1

Isaiah 9:2

However it is in the New Testament where Jesus identifies Himself as the Light of the World and we are encouraged to be His light in our lives. Check out the gospels of Matthew (especially chapter 5) and John (chapters 1, 3 and 8).

2 Corinthians 4:6 says: *For God, who said, "let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the*



knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians 5 we are encouraged to walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (vs 2) and continues in verse 7, for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

In Revelation 22:5 we read:

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

As we think about beginning a new year, let us be mindful of being ready to no longer walk in darkness, but to let the light of Christ shine in our hearts and our lives as we give glory to our Father.

A Biblical word study of "Light" in your concordance reveals that the concept of light is found throughout the entire scriptures.

It is always good to remember that God uses cracked pots. It is in the broken places in our life — those cracks where the light shines through. Our experiences of God's work in our lives is where our testimony of His goodness and His presence will touch others. We are encouraged to walk in His light always.

Some Christmas treasures.....

Received a card with this message.

Keep in Peace !!!

He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts often turn to the Lord.

Isaiah 26:3.

Inside message: Thinking of you brings a smile to my face and peace to my heart.

My sister wrote in her Christmas letter – Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and never giving it.

William Arthur Ward

Give the gift of gratitude this Christmas; it is the gift that blesses the giver and receiver.

God's grace is immeasurable, His mercy inexhaustible, His peace inexpressible.

As we look to this New Year, remember that God has always been and always will be faithful, as he has promised.

for The Christian Life Committee
Anita Eller

Judy Chase

Suggestions for Free Program helps, go to LWML.org/program-helps-devotions

- * My Light with a Purpose. (Devotion for Christian Life)
- * Walking in His Light (Patriotism & Personal Spirituality)

Here are a few programs available as a free download:

- * New Beginnings (Devotion for Trust, New Year)
- * A Circle of Light (Comfort, God's Love)