



Your story matters.



CHOOSING
Light

PASTOR
TOM LUNDEEN
DECEMBER 24, 2020

MYRC.CHURCH



“CHOOSING *Light*”

TOM LUNDEEN, SENIOR PASTOR

MESSAGE NOTES

In this darkest season you can find the _____ lights.

Note [Genesis 1:3](#); [John 1:4-5](#), [9](#); [12:46](#)

The reality is, everyone has *dark days*/_____

What can the light of Christmas do to help us _____ our personal darkness?

1. How Do *Dark Days* _____ Us?

- A. They drive us into _____ (note [Job 30:26](#)) - *Merry Christmas* sounds _____ when we're dejected.
- B. Multiplied _____ (note [Psalm 10:1](#); [22:2](#)) - things that happen in the _____ (recent or distant) produce dejection; things happening right now (_____) can produce misery.
- C. _____ uncertainty (note [John 12:35c](#)) - ...wondering about the future can produce a gnawing uncertainty and _____
- D. _____ despondency (note [Lamentations 3:19-20](#); [Psalm 88:18](#)) - when life isn't working, and loss, discouragement, misery, and uncertainty _____ our view every day we wake up, it's easy (especially in 2020) to wonder, *Who really* _____? (Note [2 Samuel 22:29](#))

2. Christmas Means We Don't Have to _____ in the Dark

Jesus _____ in dispersing darkness. He can:

- A. _____ me when I'm dejected (note [Psalm 34:18](#); [Matthew 1:23](#)) - God's _____ and purpose for our lives is accomplished even through darkness and disappointments (note [Jeremiah 29:11](#)).
- B. _____ me when I'm in misery (note [Philippians 4:13](#) and [Psalm 23:4a](#)) - even when life is hard, our good God is _____ with us (note [Hebrews 13:5b](#)).
- C. _____ me when I'm uncertain (note [John 8:12](#)) - on what basis will we make these _____ (note [Psalm 119:105](#))? God's _____ is the only reliable guide for life and helps us see clearly.
- D. _____ me when I'm despondent (note [1 John 2:8b](#)) - God is the ultimate _____. He does the most meaningful and lasting _____.

God wants our holidays to be filled with His light.

- Millions of people saw the Star of Bethlehem and did _____.
- Only the magi followed the _____ (that's why we call them *wise men*).
- Christmas 2020 is probably the most significant and important Christmas in our lifetimes...
- ...we can choose _____ or _____.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!
Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).

ONE WEEK ONLY

NEXT SUNDAY
DECEMBER 27
**ONLINE
ONLY**

ALL CAMPUS SCHEDULE

**8:45AM
10:30AM &
12:05PM**

Watch the service online at
Facebook.com/MyRiversideChurch
or at MyRC.online.Church

IN-PERSON & ONLINE
NEW SERIES STARTS JAN. 3RD

Your *story* REALLY matters.

BIG LAKE CAMPUS & ONLINE

8:45AM, 10:30AM & 12:05PM

SAUK RAPIDS CAMPUS

9:00AM & 10:45AM

MYRC.ONLINE.CHURCH



RIVERSIDE'S *A* PRODUCTION

CHRISTMAS
Carol

**LAST 2 PERFORMANCES
THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

MYRC.CHURCH/CHRISTMASCAROL

6PM

ONLINE



“CHOOSING *Light*”

TOM LUNDEEN, SENIOR PASTOR

MESSAGE NOTES

In this darkest season you can find the brightest lights.

Note [Genesis 1:3](#); [John 1:4-5, 9](#); [12:46](#)

The reality is, everyone has *dark days/seasons*.

What can the light of Christmas do to help us navigate our personal darkness?

1. How Do *Dark Days* Affect Us?

- A. They drive us into dejection (note [Job 30:26](#)) - Merry Christmas sounds hollow when we're dejected.
- B. Multiplied misery (note [Psalm 10:1](#); [22:2](#)) - things that happen in the past (recent or distant) produce dejection; things happening right now (present) can produce misery.
- C. Gnawing uncertainty (note [John 12:35c](#)) - ...wondering about the future can produce a gnawing uncertainty and doubt.
- D. Deepening despondency (note [Lamentations 3:19-20](#); [Psalm 88:18](#)) - when life isn't working, and loss, discouragement, misery, and uncertainty obscure our view every day we wake up, it's easy (especially in 2020) to wonder, *Who really cares?* (Note [2 Samuel 22:29](#))

2. Christmas Means We Don't Have to Stay in the Dark

Jesus specializes in dispersing darkness. He can:

- A. Encourage me when I'm dejected (note [Psalm 34:18](#); [Matthew 1:23](#)) - God's plan and purpose for our lives is accomplished even through darkness and disappointments (note [Jeremiah 29:11](#)).
- B. Support me when I'm in misery (note [Philippians 4:13](#) and [Psalm 23:4a](#)) - even when life is hard, our good God is present with us (note [Hebrews 13:5b](#)).
- C. Lead me when I'm uncertain (note [John 8:12](#)) - on what basis will we make these decisions (note [Psalm 119:105](#))? God's truth is the only reliable guide for life and helps us see clearly.
- D. Change me when I'm despondent (note [1 John 2:8b](#)) - God is the ultimate renovator. He does the most meaningful and lasting makeovers.

God wants our holidays to be filled with His light.

- Millions of people saw the Star of Bethlehem and did nothing.
- Only the magi followed the light (that's why we call them *wise men*).
- Christmas 2020 is probably the most significant and important Christmas in our lifetimes...
- ...we can choose darkness or light.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!
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