

Light Shines in the Darkness

by Doug Kashorek

Light is unique. Made in God's image, we rely primarily on our sense of sight ... and we need light to help us live our lives. Darkness is the absence of light—and is the stuff of horror movies and nightmares. Even as adults, we tend to panic when the electricity goes out until we can locate a flashlight or candle (does anyone know where the matches are?). And the scariest stories are always told around a campfire in the woods when all is black past the outer edges of light (what made that noise?).

It's also the only thing that won't cast a shadow! Perhaps that's why God used it so much in His

Word to signify truth. On Day 1, He created light, and there was evening and morning for three days before He created the "lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night"—the way in which we now mark a full day (Genesis 1). When Simeon saw God's "salvation" in the temple in Luke 2, he described the infant Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." Paul calls the "treasure in jars of clay" of 2 Corinthians 4 as "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

John begins his gospel by introducing Jesus as "the light" that "shines in darkness" and then adds, "and the darkness has not overcome it." It's so essential that we know this. Just as we know that when the sun sets that the moon will soon reflect its light, we trust that as "the light of the world" (John 8:12) has gone to the right hand of the Father that He has left His people, who are now "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14-16) to reflect His light to all.

So, while those who "love ... the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil" and "hate ... the light and do ... not come to the light, lest [their] works should be exposed" (John 3:19-20), we let our light shine in the darkness, so "they may see ... our good works and give glory to ... our Father who is in heaven." How shines your light?