

# Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 10 am

The light of truth.

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Welcome to all.

Opening Scripture and prayer

Hymn MP 1086 Light of the world

Scripture Isaiah 45:18-25 (page 732)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Light 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent candle

Children's talk - Lamp under a bowl

Chorus Thy word is a lamp to my feet (on bulletin) 2:33

Notices Leaflets, Sunday next week at 11am, Evening service, invite

Prayer and share time.

Reading add John 1:1-14, John 3:16-21 (page 1174)

Hymn MP 264 I believe in Jesus (accompanied 3:16)

Sermon: The light of truth.

Hymn mp 445 Lord the light of your love is shining

Closing Prayer - the Grace

[Sermon Index Database](#)

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## Prayer and Exordium

- The sending of spacecraft off to the far reaches of space, the astro physicist, the nuclear physicist, the molecular biologist, the researchers, the pioneers, the oceanographer searching to the depths of the sea, or the philosopher searching to the depth of the mind all bear witness to the fact that the human race has a desire to know, man is on a quest for knowledge. To reach out - to find out - all that can be known.
- From deep space explorations down to the sub-atomic level ... Mankind has been pushing forward for more and more knowledge.

Yet what seems like an endless search, an endless quest = has a limit. In all man's searching, there's a limit. There is only so much he can find out.

There is that which is there to be found - and that which is concealed from his sight, - which he will never find. Man for all his searching cannot find God.

There is something a Christian knows that the explorer, the philosopher of this world, no matter how intelligent, does not know. There are limits beyond which man in his unaided knowledge cannot go – the Christian knows that. The non-Christian does not understand that.

⇒ Can man by his searching find God? the Bible answer is no. No.

There is **no-one who understands**, God cannot be found through human endeavour. God is spirit and nothing in this natural world can detect the spirit.

- There is nothing in the science lab that can detect that which is spiritual.

Man is certainly looking for meaning, we are looking for satisfaction, we seek for hope, we seek for value, for our identity to know who we are, we crave security, all these things are found in love – and that is found in God alone, the God who made each one of us.

⇒ This we had before the fall with Eve and Adam in the garden of Eden.

But they were lost, that paradise was lost, and we cannot go back. So man has been looking – as some of you are still looking - for all these things. And you and I were made for them – and if you are anything like I was, you are looking in all the wrong places, there they will never be found.

- Like that game when you are sent off to find something and you are guided by someone says "colder, colder, warmer, warmer".

God sees all we do, - like that one way mirror, he can see us but we cannot see him – "colder colder" he says, as we naturally move in the wrong direction.

No the Lord God is not some sort of sadist enjoying seeing us fumbling around in the dark, not at all. God has given plenty of clues, plenty of helps..

God has made his presence known through the world around us. [The world which is so wonderful and beautifully presented in all these nature programmes.](#) This world and universe is what is known as God's 'general revelation. God revealing himself through creation - pointing to a powerful Creator.

Living in God's great visual aid means we have no excuse **"since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."** Ro 1:18-20

No man or woman boy or girl will ever leave this world armed with an excuse on Judgment Day. For what may be know about God has been made clear to each one. No excuses, nor can you say "you never told me".

[The great atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell was once asked what he would say if he found himself standing before God on judgement day and God asked him, "Why didn't you believe in Me?" Russell replied, "I would say, 'Not enough evidence, God! Not enough evidence!'"](#)

He was wrong. How wrong he was. The evidence for God is glaringly obvious – but there is a blindness to it - a self-imposed blindness.

- [These men and women are as foolish as the people HG Wells describes in the valley of the blind, who had never been able to see. They had learned to live quite happily without sight. And when the young travellers stumbled into their settlement, he was soon the centre of a raging controversy.](#)
- [Because he claimed the ability to see and talked about the sun and about colours and about the rainbow and other things, it meant nothing to these people at all because it was outside of their world. They had produced an explanation for all that they knew in the world around them.](#)
- [It never occurred to them that they lacked something which somebody else might have, like sight, because it was not part of their experience.](#)
- [They didn't think to listen to this young man's descriptions and explanations of the things that he saw around him. They just assumed that he was mad. They thought what he was saying about the world was unnecessary, and strange and artificial, as so many men and women in the world think we are when we're explaining how we see the world. They don't understand what we're talking about and conclude we are deluded and superstitious, or just plain odd.](#)

2a

- [In the end, they tried to sew up his eyelids to see whether this would cure him of his strange attitude to life. The great point is this. These men who lacked a sense like sight, were quite prepared to blacken the character and question the good sense of anyone who claimed to see, to have what they lacked.](#)

They constructed in their minds a whole world which excluded seeing. Speak about what you can see and you will be a direct challenge to their worldview. So it is with the humanists and the godless men of our day. They constructed a way of looking at the world, which leaves God out, leaves the supernatural out.

⇒ **Not being able to see is not an intelligence issue, it is a moral issue!**

**"18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven – and can't we see it – don't think only of naturalistic reasons which is all you will find on our TV News channels - against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,"**

**suppress the truth, it is your conduct and mine which causes us not to see, that is what causes blindness, blindness to the truth. – powerfully aided by Satan!**

**The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see ! and what? the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

2Co 4:4

***Instead Satan promotes a lie, an illusion.***

This is what we see right back in the garden, hear what Satan offered to Eve: **"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, x2 and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."** Ge 3:5, there goes the lie.

Let me explain a little about a lie. A lie is a falsehood, a distortion of reality. Satan promises a delusion. Here is it a view of the world where man is at the centre and not God. But that is a lie, it is not the reality of the matter.

This has always been Satan's aim to get us to believe in something not real.

For most of the world, for most of the time, a distorted view of God has prevailed, but that god has still been seen as central. Since the enlightenment, and we could say the start of our modern western way of thinking - man has seen himself as at the centre.

To reinforce this view Satan has brought to us a string of prominent ideologies.

- [The French philosophers put man at the centre and negated God, one even said he did so because he hated the thought that he was constantly being watched.](#)

We are. We are seen - by the all seeing, all knowing God.

2b

- Darwin with his changing evolution theories created an unreal world with man at the centre. So did also Sigmund Freud who is behind much of today's thinking. So with Salvador Dali with his surrealist art, popular in the 60's. Why? Because he visualized dreams. Ever since that time we have been presented with more and more of a fantasy world. Films, art, plays, music and pop idols all present a dream like false world.

Does that mean we shouldn't watch a film or see a play or listen to music? Do, and praise God for the creativity behind it. But do not watch or listen to music as a way of escape – disappearing off into a world far from reality.

- Advertising presents a false world of success, happiness, satisfaction and pleasure found in a,b,c,d,e,f – anything but in the God who made you.
- Computer games present an alternative world, as now with VR or 'virtual reality' more and more people, young people especially are drawn into an unreal world at odds with – competing with - the true world, & act it out!
- The modern media present a world without God. So also with the godless ideologies of the world and how many put their trust in the false, unreal, utopianist hope of communism, Marxism, nationalism etc. Today this false reality is seen in transgenderism. So many, confused about their identity produce a false one, a fantasy world, and then insist you enter into it.

No wonder this world is described as a dark world devoid of light.

The question is are you living out an illusion? Or have you come into the truth, into the light? At Christmas time we remember the words

**“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”** Isa 9:2

### *Is that why Jesus came into the world?*

That's a good question to ask, maybe you have asked it.

Jesus answered that very question; So why did Jesus come into the world?

Hear what he said to Pilate just before his crucifixion **"You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."** John 18:37

How little we hear of truth in our common language, it's almost been espedged from our vocabulary – yet how much we want our politicians, and everyone else for that matter - to tell the truth. **The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.**

Are you on the side of truth? Then you will listen to Jesus.

Jesus is **The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.**

**The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.** Joh 1:9  
John says later **the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.** 1Jo 2:8

But we are told the world did not receive him, the world prefers its darkness, it hides from the light, it does what it can to smother it, lest its deeds be exposed.

For some here the word of Christ is suppressed and therefore your darkness remains as Isaiah says if they do not have the word **they have no light** Isa 8:20

How about you? what have you done with the Light from heaven? Jesus Christ, who tells you the truth about yourself, and although he knows everything about you was still willing to give up His life painfully on a cross to save people like you and I from the wrath of God to come. That is what salvation is all about.

**And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place,** 2Pe 1:19

Have you let that searching light of truth penetrate your heart and do its work?

Will you let him cauterise that sin and make you clean? Will you be renewed as Paul says by the washing of the word? Eph 5:26

**And to now live in the light of Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead!**

Earlier I spoke about how creation shows evidence that the world may **know about God, know about God.** Jesus came that we may not **know about God** but know God. Jesus came to make Him known. **And to know God is eternal life.**

Jesus said in his prayer to his father **"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."** Joh 17:25,26

Do you know Him? x2 Today you can. By listening to what you are hearing. **at his appointed season he brought his word to light through preaching** Tit 1:3

You have heard preaching this morning – He says **the unfolding of His word brings light**, has his word, - maybe for the first time - brought you His light? has Jesus the revealer done his work in you - that you may see?

⇒ **Are your eyes now opened like they have never been opened before?**

Do you see the sinfulness of sin – and the wonderful Grace of God to cover it, all of it?

Jesus came to open the eyes of the blind. No man can know God without the Lord opening his eyes - just as Jesus healed the blind man so he is the opener of blind eyes, he said: **I have come that the blind may see.**

Here what Charles Spurgeon's said about this on one winters day:

- As he sat under the preaching the text from Isaiah was read: "**LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**" (Isa. 45:22)
- It says 'Look.' Now looking don't take a deal of pain. It ain't lifting your foot or your finger; it is just 'Look.' Well, a man needn't go to College to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man needn't have money to look. Anyone can look; even a child can look.
- "But then the text says, 'Look unto Me.' many of you are looking to yourselves, but it's no use looking there. You'll never find any comfort in yourselves. Some say look to God the Father. No, look to Him by-and-by. Jesus Christ says, 'Look unto Me.' Some of you say 'We must wait for the Spirit's working' You have no business with that just now. Look to Christ. The text says, 'Look unto Me.' "
- Then the preacher followed up his text in this way: "Look unto Me; I am sweating great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hanging on the cross. Look unto Me, I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend to Heaven. Look unto Me; I am sitting at the Father's right hand. O poor sinner, look unto Me! look unto Me!"
- Then lifting up his hands, he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist could do, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothing to do but look and live!"
- Spurgeon said: "I saw at once the way of salvation. I know not what else he said—I did not take much notice of it—I was so possessed with that one thought . . . I had been waiting to do fifty things, but when I heard that word, "Look!" what a charming word it seemed to me. Oh! I looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away.
- There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that instant, and sung with the most enthusiastic of them, of the precious blood of Christ, and the simple faith which looks alone to Him. Oh, that somebody had told me this before, "Trust Christ, and you shall be saved." and now I can say—  
*"E'er since by faith I saw the stream, Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme, And shall be till I die. . ."*
- That happy day when I found the Saviour, and learned to cling to His dear feet, was a day never to be forgotten by me . . . I listened to the Word of God and that precious text led me to the cross of Christ. I can

testify that the joy of that day was utterly indescribable. I could have leaped, I could have danced; there was no expression, however fanatical, which would have been out of keeping with the joy of that hour. Many days of Christian experience have passed since then, but there has never been one which has had the full exhilaration, the sparkling delight which that first day had.

- I thought I could have sprung from the seat in which I sat, and have called out . . . "I am forgiven! I am forgiven! A monument of grace! A sinner saved by His blood!"

### *Peroration*

Can you speak of that day? That moment your eyes were opened? And you were free, and Christ was real, and God was there, and is now here with me - now – and forever?

So as Christmas comes let us look to the One who came from heaven, to bring the truth of God, to reveal that God - and make Him known.

The world in its efforts, in all its vain and costly search for knowledge cannot know God. But Jesus Christ came to make Him known.

Now let us joyfully walk the life of repentance and faith. Let us walk with Him and let his word be **a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.** Ps 119:105

Amen

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