

dark·ness | 'därknəs |

noun

- 1 the partial or total absence of light: *the office was in darkness.*
 - night: *they began to make camp before darkness fell.*
 - the quality of being dark in color: *the darkness of his jacket.*
- 2 wickedness or evil: *the forces of darkness.*
 - unhappiness, distress, or gloom: *moments of darkness were rare.*
 - secrecy or mystery: *they drew a veil of darkness across the proceedings.*
 - lack of spiritual or intellectual enlightenment; ignorance: *his accomplishments shone in a world of darkness.*

1

Isaiah 5:30

In that day [the enemies of Israel] will roar over
[the land of Israel]
like the roaring of the sea.
And if one looks at the land,
**there is only darkness and distress;
even the sun will be darkened by clouds.**

2

Isaiah 59:1-2, 9

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.

But **your iniquities** have **separated**
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that **he will not hear**.

So justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not reach us.

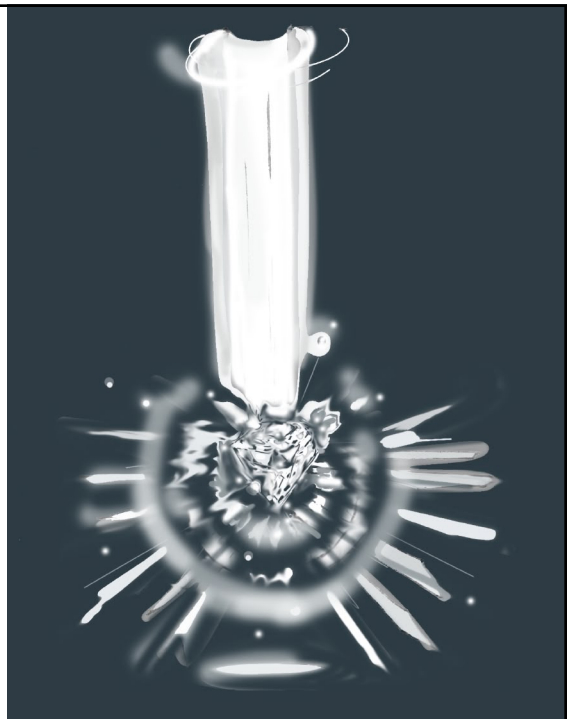
We look for light, but all is darkness;
for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.

3

A Radiant Church

Isaiah 60:1-5

ref.ly/Is60;niv



4

Isaiah 60:1-5
 'Arise shine for your light has come,
 and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
² See, darkness covers the earth
 and thick darkness is over the peoples,
 but the LORD rises upon you
 and his glory appears over you.
³ Nations will come to your light,
 and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
 All assemble and come to you;
 your sons come from afar,
 and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
 your heart will throb and swell with joy; throb = deeply feel
 the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
 to you the riches of the nations will come.

5

Isaiah 60:19-22
 "The sun will no more be your light by day,
 nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
 for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
 and your God will be your glory.
²⁰ Your sun will never set again,
 and your moon will wane no more; wane = fade away
 the LORD will be your everlasting light,
 and your days of sorrow will end.
²¹ Then all your people will be righteous
 and they will possess the land forever.
 They are the shoot I have planted, shoot = young plant
 the work of my hands,
 for the display of my splendor.
²² The least of you will become a thousand,
 the smallest a mighty nation.
 I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly."

6

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine before others** that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

7

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For you were once darkness, but **now you are light in the Lord**. Live as **children of light** ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and **everything that is illuminated becomes a light**. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:
 “Wake up, sleeper,
 rise from the dead,
 and **Christ will shine on you.**”

8

Revelation 21:22-24

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for **the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp**. The **nations will walk by its light**, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

9

The Big Idea

Christ's Church is to be **radiant**
with His glory
and for His glory
for all the world to see and join

10

If the Church's radiance is its own radiance
its radiance is dim
and it fades



11

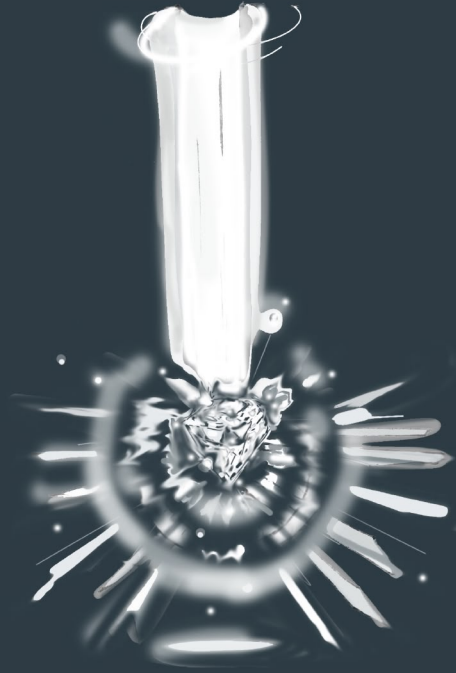
What does a diamond look like
in the dark?

But when a brilliant light shines on it...



12

The Church's radiance
is the light of Christ shining on it
reflecting out to all the world



13

Where the church is not holy,
where it has stains and wrinkles and
blemishes,
it fails to reflect Christ's glory



14

The Big Idea

Christ's Church is to be radiant
with His glory
and for His glory
for all the world to see and join

15

What does it mean for us?

Grow to full maturity in Christ

- "to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as **a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**" Ephesians 5:26-27
- "He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone **fully mature in Christ.**" Colossians 1:28

16

What does it mean for us?

Grow to full maturity in Christ



17

What does it mean for us?

Show Christ's glory so nations will find new life in Christ

- "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." Isa. 60:3
- "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16
- "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

18

What does it mean for us?

Show Christ's glory so nations will find new life in Christ

Reach
OUT
↔

19

What does it mean for us?

Show Christ's glory through diverse unity

- "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. ... [giving praise to God]" Revelation 7:9
- God's purpose is "to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ." Ephesians 1:10

20

What does it mean for us?

Show Christ's glory through diverse unity



21

What does it mean for us?

Show Christ's glory through us all

- "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit **on all people**. Your sons and daughters...your old men... your young men...Even on my servants, both men and women..." Joel 2:28-29
- Making changes so everyone is valued Acts 6:1-7

22

What does it mean for us?

Show Christ's glory through us all

Together



23

The Big Idea

Christ's Church is to be radiant
with His glory
and for His glory
for all the world to see and join

"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." Exodus 40:34-35

24

The Big Idea

Christ's Church is to be radiant
with His glory
and for His glory
for all the world to see and join

"Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God."

2 Chronicles 5:13-14

25

The Big Idea

Christ's Church is to be radiant
with His glory
and for His glory
for all the world to see and join

"And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal." Revelation 21:10-11

26

*"Arise, shine, for your light
has come,
and the glory of the Lord
rises upon you.
Isaiah 60:1*