

# OpenTheo

## The Darkness Does Not Win

December 1, 2022



### **Life and Books and Everything** - Clearly Reformed

With so many sad things in our world, it can be difficult to see any bright spots. This article reminds Christians of the hope of Christmas.

## Transcript

Welcome to Life in Books and Everything! I'm Kevin DeYoung and today I'm reading this short article, a devotional article I wrote for Decision Magazine, put out by the folks at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and this is a Christmas piece entitled The Darkness Does Not Win. The title of this article, The Darkness Does Not Win, is hard to believe, isn't it? Doesn't it seem like every week we hear about wars and rumors of wars, about terrorism or mass shootings, about Christian persecution or cultural degradation? We can look back on this past year and think of loved ones who've died or friends who've been diagnosed with cancer and others who are gripped by addiction or saddled with chronic pain or mired in a depression that will not lift. In our own lives there are too many tears, too many unknowns, too many closed doors.

It's not hard to be discouraged, maybe even to despair. And yet the spoiler is true, the darkness does not win. In the beginning was the Word.

And the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God, all things were made through Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life.

And the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1, 1 through 5. The symbolism of light in John's gospel has many layers.

Light can refer to Christ as in John 8:12, I'm the light of the world, or to obeying the will of God as in John 3:20, everyone who does wicked things hates the light. Or to eternal life and the abundant life that can be found only in Christ, which is what verse 4 means by saying in Him was life and the life was the light of men. I think John is being deliberately

ambiguous in verse 5. What he is saying is that the entire light side is victorious over the entire dark side.

Christians will not be overcome by the darkness, either amid our lifetime struggle with sin or in the life of eternal bliss to come, because we belong to the one who is the light of the world. Darkness, which is John's way of talking about the fallen world of sin and Satan, will not prove victorious in its long persistent fight against the light. Light is more powerful even when darkness is more pervasive.

Have your kids ever shown a flashlight in your face in the middle of the night? Have you ever been kept awake by an overly bright night light in the corner of the room? Have you ever been drawn with curiosity to some grand sale in town because the establishment blasted a spotlight into the sky? No matter how much darkness light pierces the darkness, and the darker the night, the brighter the light shines. This is not a pie in the sky, inspirational pep talk. There are all sorts of generic vaguely spiritual messages that sound forth during December.

Yes, Christmas is about the good news that the bad guys will not ultimately defeat the good guys. Yes, Christmas is about peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Yes, Christmas is about the hope of better days to come and a better life after this life.

Christmas is supposed to be happy and cheerful and inspiring, but if that's all we say or all we believe, we haven't gotten the literal beating heart of the Christian story and the Christmas story. Why can we be confident that the darkness will not win? It's not because of grandma's cooking or a familiar Christmas movie. It's not because dreams come true when we believe no matter what we actually believe.

Our confidence is rooted in history. Our faith is based on fact. What we celebrate in this season is not the triumph of the human spirits or the importance of family or the power of positive thinking.

We worship a baby boy born in a bloody mess in a manger in Bethlehem. That baby was really born to a real virgin. Just as the prophets foretold he lived, he died, he rose from the dead on the third day.

He is coming again. We know that the darkness will not be victorious over the world because it was not victorious over the one through whom the world was made. If God can summon light into existence when there was only darkness, surely he can send his light into the world with assurance of complete success no matter how impossible the odds.

For this is the miracle and the wonder of Christmas. The light of the world was born in the darkness of night as the word of God lay in the manger unable to speak a syllable. That's the story.

The story is true. All of it. The baby, the virgin, the shepherds, the angel, the manger, the star, the wise man, even the hard to pronounce words like quirrenius and ephrathah.

It's all true. So now what? Repent, believe, trust, obey, worship, and rejoice. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior who is Christ the Lord.

True light which gives light to everyone has come into the world and the darkness does not win.