

Discovering the Light of Christ

II Corinthians 4

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2015

Celebration | 8:45 am

Elevation | 10:45 am

Pastor David Mitchell

Why do we need the Light of Christ?

We may lose heart when life is uncertain.

II Corinthians 4:1 *"Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart"*

John 20:1 *"Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb."*

We may lose heart even in doing good things.

Galatians 6:9 *"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."*

We may lose heart in painful situations.

Ephesians 3:13 *"Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory."*

We may lose heart when God seems absent or does not answer my prayer.

Luke 18:1 *"Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart."*

What does Christ offer us?

II Corinthians 4:6 *"For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*

Jesus offers us a new life.

Mary discovers the resurrected Jesus:

John 20:15-18 *"Jesus said to her(Mary), 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?' Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabboni!' (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and that He had said these things to her."*

Why is it hard to live in the Light of Christ?

II Corinthians 4:7-9 *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."*

How do I receive the Light of Christ into my life?

II Corinthians 4:13-14 *"But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,' we also believe, therefore we also speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you."*

- Admit my imperfections and sin
- Confess them to Jesus for forgiveness
- Believe that Jesus died and rose again to forgive me
- Receive His life to let Him shine and fill those broken places of your life

Digging Deeper:

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." -John 3:16-18

Jesus did not say that "whoever works hard" will have eternal life.

Jesus did not say that "whoever joins the church" will have eternal life.

Jesus did not say that "whoever is baptized and takes communion" will have eternal life.

Jesus did not say that "whoever keeps the 10 commandments" will have eternal life.

Jesus said, "whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will have eternal life." You must believe that He is fully God and fully man to die in your place on the cross. He received the penalty of death that we all deserve because of our sinful lives. So it is faith alone in Jesus alone that provides our new life today and forever with God in heaven.

If you would like to place your faith in Jesus today, you can pray a prayer like this:

"Dear God, I know that I have sinned against You and I ask for Your forgiveness. I do believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, and He died as payment for my sins. I now place my trust in Him alone to forgive me and cleanse me from all my sin. From now on, please help me to turn from my sin and to live a life pleasing to You according to the Bible. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

Next Steps:

1. **Attend an upcoming 'Discover' class to learn more about Calvary or about following Jesus.**

Discover Classes are interactive experiences designed to help you take a next step and learn how to live out the Christian life.

- **Discover Calvary:** Sunday, April 12 from 12:15 – 3:45 pm in the Fireside Room
Learn about Calvary Church's beliefs, purpose, history, ministries and how to become a member. Come get connected in community with God and others. Lunch is included.
- **Discover Jesus:** Wednesdays, April 15 – June 10 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Worship Center Lobby
Explore the foundational elements of discipleship through the *Following Jesus* course. "Grow in your faith as you learn to live and love like Jesus."

Learn more about the Discover Classes at calvarylife.org/discover

2. **Join us again next Sunday as we begin the new series called 'Supernatural: the Unseen and the Afterlife.'**

Calvary is one church with several unique expressions of worship each Sunday. Each service explores the same theme and study of the Bible, but with distinct worship elements surrounding the message.

- **Celebration:** 8:45 am in the Worship Center – Hymns & praise music with the Celebration Choir
- **Elevation:** 10:45 am in the Worship Center – Modern-style worship with the Elevation band
- **Renovación:** 10:30 am in the Chapel – Hispanic service with a praise band (en español)

Learn more about Sundays at Calvary at calvarylife.org/sundays