

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

You Are the Light

Psalm 36:9

♩ = 108 D A⁷_{sus} / E D / F# G^{add9} G A^{sus} A B^m F#⁷_{sus} / B B^m / A

1. You are the Light- we see. You are the
 2. With - in our hearts- Your light. With - in our

GM⁷ G F#^{sus} F# G A / G G A / G

Truth- we know. You are the Life- we
 minds- Your truth. With - in our lives- Your

D^{add9} / F# D / F# F#^m D / F# E^{sus} E^m GM⁷ A^{sus} A A / G D / F# F#^{m7}

live. You are the Hope, You are the
 love. Liv - ing Your hope, Spreading Your

G^{add9} G D / A G / A D / A A^{sus} A G / A D D

Joy, You are the Song we sing.
 joy, Sing - ing Your beau - ti - ful song.

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MUSIC: Tom Fettke

MORNING STAR
6.6.6.4.4.6.

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TOPICS: Advent; Christmas; God's Presence; Living in Christ; Praise & Worship

LEAD-IN: *[Lord,] with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
(Psalm 36:9, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

What Does Christ Think of Christmas?

As I face another Christmas celebration at church, I brace myself for the rigorous schedule. I think of the huge investments of time and energy that go into it. I quietly wonder if we're really getting our money's worth out of all this, spiritually speaking. What does Christ think of our Christmas celebrations anyway? How much of it is even pleasing to Him?

Remember that He is the One who saw straight through empty words and ceremony. He was absolutely ruthless toward such "praise". His quotation of Isaiah 29:13 still rings in my ears:

*These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain. (Matthew 15:8-9, NIV)*

When the disciples were impressed by the beauty of the Temple, Jesus spoke God's displeasure and foretold its complete destruction. He was vehement as He condemned the Pharisees for their pomp and pride. They made a show of their religion while ignoring what matters most to God.

Instead, Jesus was impressed by the selfless, tenacious faith of the Syro-Phoenician woman; by the quiet dedication of the widow giving her mite; by the desperately honest prayer, "*God, have mercy on me, a sinner*" (Luke 18:13, NIV).

He gently rebuked His good friend Martha for her well-intentioned busy-ness. Her sister Mary had chosen the only thing that was needed: to sit and quietly listen at the Lord's feet (Luke 10:38-42, NIV).

What would this Jesus think of our Christmas celebrations?

Or more properly, what would He think of *my* Christmas celebrations? That's the real question, not my church's program. All true worship takes place in the heart, so if true worship is lacking, the problem is in me.

In spite of all the "religious activity" that goes on, I've found that Christmas can be a barren time spiritually. Often little happens between God and me—little real celebration of what He has done, little true worship, little heart-to-heart with my Father. If nothing is happening in my heart, what good is any of the celebrating?

My Lord, my Savior, I give this Christmas to You. How can I worship You in a way that would please You?