



DEALING WITH DARKNESS

Marc Gibson

As we in the northern hemisphere approach the winter solstice (Thursday, December 21), daylight becomes shorter each day. Astronomers explain the phenomenon of longer periods of darkness as having to do with how the Earth revolves around the Sun and how the distribution of sunlight on our planet changes over the course of the year. We may not understand exactly how it works, but we all know it stays darker longer this time of year!

When it gets dark, we have to turn on our car's headlights and outdoor lights in order to see. Without some source of light we could have an accident. This is also true about our spiritual lives: "But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble" (Proverbs 4:18-19). Living in the darkness of ignorance, foolishness, rebellion, and wickedness is a very dangerous place to be. We are unable to see the road we should travel or the many dangers that lurk in the darkness.

Jesus came as a shining Light so that men would not have to live in the darkness of sin (John 1:4-9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36, 46). Living in the light requires obedience, courage, and faithfulness. Those who are evil hate the exposure of the light, but "he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God" (3:20-21). As we observe the longer darkness of these earthly days, let us spiritually resolve to "walk in the light as He is in the light," and to be faithful and steadfast "children of light" in an ever-darkening world of evil (1 John 1:7; Ephesians 5:8).

***Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path***
(Psalm 119:105)

