

Remnant Life Church
November 16, 2025
Treasures Found in Darkness
Isaiah 9:2-7

Just a couple of weeks ago we turned our clocks back 1 hour

- We did gain an extra hour of sleep on that first night
- But the days are getting shorter
- And this will continue until December 21 when the north pole will reach its maximum tilt away from the sun
- And now you now are looking at the clock thinking it's got to be at least 10 or 10:30 at night and it's actually a quarter to 7

Then, in a little less than 4 months (March 8, 2026) we will turn our clocks ahead once more to Daylight Savings Time

- We lose the hour of sleep but the days begin getting longer again
- This means there will be a steady increase of the hours of daylight compared to darkness until June 21 (summer solstice) when there are the most hours of daylight in a single day of the year in the northern hemisphere
- On June 21, 2026 there will be 15 hours 2 minutes of daylight and 8 hours 58 minutes of darkness.

Of course, the Bible uses light and darkness more than any other description for good and evil

- In the NT – the word dark is used 58 times, and the word light 89 times
- Light means life – more specifically life in Jesus
 - When Jesus described Himself, it was that word light, that He used:
 - **John 8:12** - *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*
 - It is the same word used for our purpose to the world
 - **Matt 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."*
 - It describes what should be your very countenance
 - **Luke 11:34-36** - *Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you."*
 - And it is the simplest, most precise identification of Jesus
 - **John 9:5** - *While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

- So, given all of that, darkness should be avoided, run from, and despised in every way because there can never be anything good found in the darkness – right?!
- Well...maybe we should not be quite so hasty to avoid something that can actually be a source of great treasures – if you are willing to look

Let's first understand who that light is in the Bible written about 700 years before He came to earth

READ – Isaiah 9:2-7

- Every Christian believes they should always desire light over darkness
 - While there is certainly wisdom and an obvious desire to avoid the darkness of sin there are times when you may be in a dark place through no fault or wrongdoing of your own
 - Whatever the reason, there is much that can be gained while in a time of darkness physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally...
- And this morning I want to share with you 7 treasures you can look for when you find yourself in a time of darkness

Make no mistake, these seven are not always easy to find because it is hard to see in the dark

- That is true in both the physical and the spiritual
1. Do not be surprised, when you are seeking the light, that you encounter the dark.
 - a. Job declared - *Yet when I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, then came darkness.* (Job 30:26)
 - b. I can remember, many years ago, going to a business to take an aptitude test for a position
 - i. As I read the questions I started smiling because this was perfect for me
 - ii. Every answer that I believed was the right answer, was exactly who I was
 - iii. I got called back for another interview and was then told that, according to the test results, I would not be a good fit for them
 - iv. I was expecting a moment of light but got hit with darkness instead
 - c. But what I have come to realize is that every moment of light is preceded by darkness
 - i. Noah spent over a year on the ark
 - ii. Abraham stood poised with a knife over his son's chest
 - iii. Moses was wanted for murder and fled the opulence of Egyptian royalty to live in the desert
 - iv. Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days
 - v. Jesus hung on the cross
 - d. Darkness is present in this world, but it is a place we will pass through every time if we hold to the fact that God, our heavenly Father, will be with us through the journey
 - e. And so, do not allow the dark times to surprise you to the place of being overwhelmed
 - f. I John 4:4 – Greater is the One who is in you, then the one who is in the world

2. When we are in the dark and there is no light, we have the opportunity to trust and rely exclusively on the Lord
 - a. Jonah had few options when he was sitting in the belly of the great fish
 - b. When David was on the run from King Saul
 - i. He did not rally his men to fight and defend him
 - ii. He cried out to God for comfort and protection
 - c. It is most often at the very end of ourselves that God allows the light to come
 - d. Once again, was not every one of those we just listed, Noah, Jonah, Abraham at the end of themselves in some way?
 - e. Consider another one, King David
 - i. He has just committed a grievous sin in the eyes of the Lord
 1. He has lusted after a woman who was married
 2. He slept with her and she became pregnant
 3. He manipulated the circumstances so that her husband would be killed
 4. Then married her and was not planning to confess any of this until he was confronted by the prophet Nathan
 - ii. He knows God can remove him from the throne
 1. He is at the end of himself
 2. And for all his faults there was one thing David did and did well – repent
 3. He turned to God in humility and grief
 4. **Psalm 51:1-2** - *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*
 5. **Psalm 51:10-12** - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
 - f. Darkness will bring you to the place of trusting only on the mercy and love of God
 - g. And the result of that trust in Him will produce the treasure of His love
3. In the darkness the Lord's mercy and grace is not only revealed but we can see His hand at work
 - a. *Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. (Psa 112:4)*

READ – Acts 12:6-10

- b. James, the brother of John, has been executed by Herod
 - i. He has now imprisoned Peter with most likely a similar fate waiting
 - ii. The angel did not just come to comfort Peter
 - iii. He came to physically change his circumstances

- c. God's hand is powerful in the darkness
 - i. We must be willing to not only pray for His hand to move
 - ii. But expect Him to do so in accordance with His will
- 4. There are "treasures of darkness" to be found, so find rest in the times of struggle
 - a. *I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name (Isa 45:3)*
 - b. I know that it may sound strange to find rest in the times of darkness but there is peace to be had when you are trusting in God as your deliverer
 - c. And there are times when you will find these treasures ONLY in the time of darkness
 - d. Elijah was hiding in a cave from Jezebel struggling with his feelings of loneliness and isolation, battling depression
 - i. He had to be at that place of quiet darkness to know God not only made His presence known to the entire nation in fire like he did from Mt. Sinai
 - ii. But when He spoke to Elijah alone in a whisper
 - iii. He had to be in that place to hear God's voice
 - 1. To shut everything else out – even the victory at Mt. Horeb
 - 2. Which incidentally is another name for Mt. Sinai
 - 3. The fire of God and the whisper of His presence occurred at the same place
 - 4. Because God is all we need!
- 5. We are in a time to learn to keep things in perspective
 - a. There is never a time of darkness we must endure that can stand in comparison to what Jesus went through for each us on the Cross
 - i. His sacrifice brought darkness in the heavens
 - b. *At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. (Mark 15:33)*
 - c. No matter how dark the situation you are dealing with is, there are always others who are struggling more
 - d. An anonymous saying thought to have its roots in Persian philosophy
 - i. "I was sad because I had no shoes, till I met a man who had no feet"
 - ii. This was said to be the creed of Helen Keller
 - 1. It kept her from despairing into self-pity
 - iii. Listen to how Jonah's time of darkness changed his perspective
 - 1. *Jonah 2:9 - But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'"*
 - iv. You can, and SHOULD, give praise to God for His blessings even in the darkness
 - v. That will certainly help to change your perspective
- 6. If we seek Jesus in the darkness, we will find Him
 - a. In **John 20** we read that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while "it was still dark,"

- i. Her faith and desire to seek Jesus brought the first revelation to the disciples that the grave had not held Jesus
- b. Our tendency in times of darkness is often to stop moving and wait it out
- c. But many times our movement is what will hasten the end of the darkness but...
 - i. That movement is by seeking God's direction
 - ii. Many times that means being obedient to the council of the Holy Spirit through various means
 - 1. **Prov 13:10** - *Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*
 - 2. **Prov 15:22** - *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*
 - iii. Isolation falls directly into the enemy's plans to keep you in the darkness for as long as he can
 - iv. That is why humility is necessary, not pride, in the times of darkness
 - 1. Seek godly council
 - 2. Pray

7. You have the assurance that Jesus will not leave you in the dark

READ - John 6:16-21

- a. The disciples had two options when the storm came up
 - i. Either take shelter as best they could in the boat and ride it out
 - ii. Or keep on rowing
 - iii. They did not see Jesus until they had been rowing over 3 miles in the storm
- b. The time in the darkness may seem like forever but God will not leave you there
- c. Jesus knew exactly where the disciples were in the storm

No one willingly seeks darkness over light -

- The circumstances of darkness may be very difficult -
- But if you look, there are treasures to found even in those dark moments
- And when you seek them, you will take your eyes off of yourself and set them on the things of God
 - Never forget that as long as Peter was looking at Jesus he walked on the water
- There are treasures to be found in your times of darkness
 - Seek them out and know that the blessings of God even in those difficult times are there for you to bless you
 - Because He loves you