

The Shadows of Christmas

When we are seeking God diligently, we are surprised by shadows. We read of the hope and the joy of the Christian life, and we can start to assume that the joy we are promised removes the struggles. That is happiness, not joy. The joy we are promised does not remove the struggles, it overcomes them. We even see it in the first Christmas.

Scripture(s): Luke 2:25-35; Matthew 2:16-18

I. The first shadow over the first Christmas that reminds us of how far God goes to redeem us is the _____. Even from the beginning, Christ came for one _____ - to die for our sins.

John 18:37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

II. The second shadow over the first Christmas that reminds us of how far God goes to redeem us is man's _____. God's Word shows us that God is passionate about doing something about _____.

John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil."

Remember this - Do not be discouraged by the shadows in life for God is doing _____ things.

Our challenge: Expect the _____ of life and overcome them with God's light.

1. Do not live surprised that life can be _____.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

2. Look to Jesus and His _____ when the troubles come.

3. See God work as You _____ on Him. _____: depend, hope, trust, wait, obey.

December 26, 2021

"Angels, from the Realms
of Glory" 94

"It Came Upon a Midnight
Clear" 93

"Away in a Manger" 103

* Pastoral Prayer & Time in
the Word *

"What Child Is This" 118