

THE LIGHT THAT GUIDES

LET THERE BE LIGHT | CHRISTMAS AT THE SHORELINE 2015

December 13th, 2015
Seth Ebel

WHAT ARE YOU GUIDED BY?

We are all guided by someone or something?

- Relationships
- Politics
- Advertising
- Thought leaders: media and universities
- Social media: “FOMO”
- Fear
- Reputation, status, success, a lifestyle, security, retirement, or even in how we compare ourselves with others

What truly and deeply guides me?

EXPOSED IN THE LIGHT

- Uncomfortably clear HDTV's
- When we come to the God who is light (1 John 1:5), our lives become exposed to absolute truth.

“...God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.”

JOHN 3:19

- We want to measure ourselves in countless ways...just not against God's perfect standard! (Matthew 5:48)

ACCEPTED IN THE LIGHT

Even though the light of Christ exposes us, it also accepts us through grace.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

JOHN 1:14

“We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

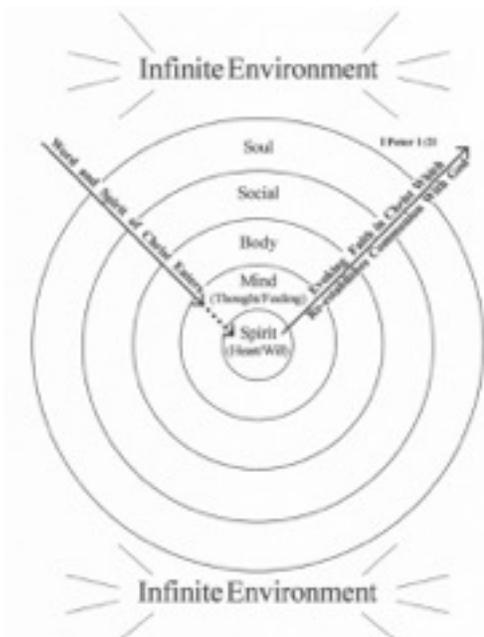
Timothy Keller in *The Meaning of Marriage*

GOOD NEWS FOR DARKNESS DWELLERS

- The Light is Love! (1 John 4:8)
- The Light is shining to save us, not condemn us! (John 3:17)
- Jesus, the Light of the World, doesn't want us in darkness (John 8:12)
- He came to put us in the Kingdom of undying light! (Colossians 1:13)

So how do we live in such a way that we are constantly being guided by Jesus' light and life?

IT BEGINS WITH A CHOICE



(Diagram from Dallas Willard's *Renovation of the Heart*, p. 38).

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

JOHN 8:12

*When we anchor our lives in worship,
Jesus' light and life become our
constant guide*

HOW DO WE ANCHOR OUR LIVES IN WORSHIP?

In the Spirit's power...

1. Live every day "CORAM DEO" - before the face of God.

- We live our lives in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God. (Matthew 6:33)

2. Live every day expectant in GOD'S WORD.

"People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

MATTHEW 4:4

"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives."

COLOSSIANS 3:16

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

PSALM 119:105