

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

We all, at one point before coming to know God through Jesus Christ, were hopelessly enslaved to darkness--the darkness of a self-centered, self-exalting, and self-pleasing life (which takes many forms). What we find in this darkness is the miserable truth of the essence of it: satisfaction is ever fleeing and the deeper we dive into this darkness, the more desperate we become for true satisfaction and contentment. The truth is, however, that the desire for joy, happiness, and contentment are all God-given desires that each person has ingrained within them. The problem that we face in the darkness is that we cannot see that the joy and satisfaction we long for is only found in the person of God Himself: Jesus Christ.

The knowledge of the glory of God is the beauty and majesty of the character and attributes of God revealed in His Son—His holiness (moral perfection and utter separateness from sin), His justice (His ultimate indifference to moral evil), and His great love and grace extended as a free gift to his enemies (although very costly to Him in the giving of His own Son). When we begin to understand and grow in the understanding of the glory of God (His character and attributes) that has been revealed in creation and ultimately in the person of His Son Jesus Christ (the light that shines out of darkness!), we become the person in the parable that finds a treasure of immense value and is willing to sell all to acquire it. That treasure is God Himself. To live for His glory and to grow in our understanding of it, leads to a freedom and satisfaction that we are all desperately hungering for.

This Advent, will you taste and see that the Lord is good beyond any human treasure?

Dear Lord, As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, help us to glimpse Your goodness and glory and find that You are our valuable treasure. Amen.

Eric McEwen