

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Christmas Light  
A Study of Isaiah 9:2**

**[www.hillcrest.church](http://www.hillcrest.church)**

When does your Christmas tree go up? Who trims it? How? What other traditions do you observe from your childhood?

Today the choir sang to us about Christmas light. This was the prophecy of Isaiah, too. Read Isaiah 9:2.

Because Christianity is a life in the light, let's look at three ways you must live.

**First: Live with hope.**

Read Malachi 4:2.

What Christmas song uses this image in its lyrics?

Read Matthew 13:43. In that verse, Jesus was speaking about that same moment in the future that Paul wrote about in Romans 8:18. Read that verse.

How can the following experiences be different for those who live in the light?

Decision-making

Grief

Health issues

**Second: Live with integrity.**

Read Ephesians 5:8.

Did Paul say, “You *are* light” or “You need to become light”? What’s the difference between these two statements?

If we’re *already* “light,” why was it necessary for Paul to tell us to live like we’re children of light?

What are the consequences of trying to live like we’re children of light without the assurance that we’re already light? What are the consequences of reassuring someone they’re light without also telling them to live like children of light?

Read Luke 12:3. Since everything will eventually be exposed, choose the best way to apply this truth. Explain your answer.

- ☐ I will live in such a way that there won’t be much I’ll be ashamed of once it’s all exposed.
- ☐ I will live a life of repentance and accountability so that, when my life is exposed, people will see not only my failures but what I did to fix things and move forward.
- ☐ Both.

### **Third, live with testimony.**

Read 1 Peter 2:9.

We tend to think of “praise” as simply the act of singing worship music. But when you “declare the praises” of someone you’re proud of (your kid or your spouse, for example), what are you doing? How can that help us understand what it means to “declare the praises” of God?

This Christmas season, who needs to hear you “declare the praises” of God?

Close with praise reports and prayer requests.