

How To Brighten Up Christmas **John 1:1-14**

Introduction:

1. Do you put lots of flashing, multi-colored lights all around the inside and outside of your home during the Christmas season?
2. Regardless of whether you do or don't, I think most of us would agree that Christmas lights are a beautiful sight.
3. But sadly, many people around Daytona Beach will not have a bright Christmas. They say the suicide rate goes up during the holiday season. Many are depressed and despondent. Many people are dealing with major problems and very serious issues.
4. But regardless of where you find yourself this Christmas, there is a Christmas Light that can change your entire perspective on everything. This Christmas Light can not only brighten up your Christmas, but your entire life!
5. This message is entitled, "How To Brighten Up Christmas." But it could be entitled, "How To Brighten Up Your Entire Life."
6. This passage is an awesome passage of God's Word that details for us who Jesus Christ is and the light He provides in a sin-darkened world. How do we brighten up Christmas?

First, identify the Christmas Light. Don't miss it.

1. The first step in brightening up Christmas is to identify **the** Christmas Light. You may ask, "What Christmas Light are you talking about?"
2. The Bible is clear that the Christmas Light is not a "what," but a "Who."
 - In John 1:6-7, the "*him*" is referring back to the Light. So the Christmas Light is a person. Who is the Christmas Light? Clearly, in this passage, we see that it is Jesus. vs. 1, 14
3. You may be thinking, "Everybody knows that." But many in Jesus' day missed it. vs. 5, 9-10
 - Verse 10 is amazing. Jesus was God in the flesh, He made the world, He came into the world He made, but the world (its inhabitants) knew Him not. They did not identify the Christmas Light. Most of the people missed it.
4. It is no different today. A small percentage of people understand Who the Christmas Light is, but most do not.
 - Even among people who celebrate Christmas, there is no apparent evidence that many even know that Christmas is about Christ.
 - **Illustration:** In front yards you see Santa, Frosty, elves, Rudolph, mistletoe, etc. But where is Jesus?
5. The truth is, on Christmas day most of the world will not even give Jesus a passing thought. There is no way to truly brighten up Christmas until you first identify the Christmas Light and don't miss it like so many did 2,000 years ago.

Second, accept the Christmas Light. Don't just admire it.

1. How many of you like to look at Christmas lights? What do you do? You drive by, admire them, drive off, and quickly forget them. They do nothing to change your life. You simply admire them from a distance.
 - I've never heard anybody give a testimony, "I saw those Christmas lights and it changed my life forever."
2. Did you know that is exactly what people did with **the** Christmas Light (Jesus) 2,000 years ago? vs. 11
 - Israel admired Jesus from a distance. They loved to watch His miracles and His healings. But most of them did not make a choice to receive Him.
3. It is still the same way today. Many people admire Jesus from a distance (He is a good man, moral teacher, prophet), but they have never believed on Him as the Son of God and received Him into their hearts and lives as their Savior.
4. Many people admire Jesus from a distance, but He does not live within them (He's somebody they hang around their neck on a necklace, He hangs on a wall of their house, or sits on their table as a statue).
5. It is not enough to admire Jesus. You must accept Him and believe in His finished work that He accomplished on the cross for sin.
6. Jesus does not want to be a relic in your life, but desires to have a relationship with you. vs. 12
 - You may be thinking, "Me? But you don't know all that I've done." No, I don't know. But I do know what Christ has done **for** you. You were included! vs. 7, 9
7. Will you embrace the Light or hide from it?
 - **Illustration:** In the morning, the light comes on and you pull the covers over your head. But remember being a kid on Christmas? You loved the light. It meant gifts. The Light of Jesus means the gift of eternal life. Romans 6:23

Third, share the Christmas Light with others. Don't hide it.

1. How many of you only have Christmas lights in your back yard? You say, "That's ridiculous. You don't put up Christmas lights in your back yard." But why not? You want other people to be able to enjoy them.
 - Lights are to be seen, not hidden. You don't hide something beautiful like Christmas lights.
2. The sad part is, many Christians hide the Christmas Light every year. They never share the life-changing light of Jesus with anyone.
3. Do you want to really brighten up Christmas? Share the light of Jesus with someone else. Share with them what He has done in your life. This is what John did. vs. 6-8
 - This is God's plan. "*Bear witness*" simply means "to testify."
 - John was pointing people to the Light, sharing the Light.
4. To not share the light of Christ with others is like a guy in his backyard admiring his lights and keeping them all to himself.

In Conclusion:

Do you want to brighten up Christmas?

- Identify the Christmas Light, don't miss it.
 - The Christmas Light is Jesus.
- Accept the Christmas Light, don't just admire it.
 - Receive Christ. Believe on Him with your heart.
- Share the Christmas Light, don't hide it.
 - Tell others about Jesus.