

## The Greatest Light Dr. Paul Chappell

Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. **Isaiah 9:1-2**

The birth of Jesus was announced to the world by a bright host of angels shattering the darkness over the hills where shepherds were watching their sheep. The arrival of the King of the Jews was announced to the wise men by the appearance of a new star in the darkness of the night sky. That is only fitting, for the baby born in Bethlehem came to bring light into the world darkened by sin. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

The light of Jesus is not just a light of example or a light of kindness or a light of teaching, though it includes all of those things. It is the light of God Himself. It is the Source of all light and shines forth with both truth and grace. It provides the hope of salvation for all who believe in Jesus as Saviour. John wrote, "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (Luke 1:9).

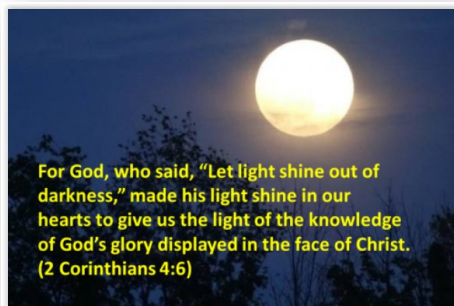
Ever since sin entered into the world, man's default condition has been darkness. Our only hope of finding our way out of the bondage of sin and the certainty of death and eternal separation from God is for someone to bring light into that darkness. Jesus is that Someone. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not....But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:4-5, 12). We who have received Christ as our Savior should reflect the glorious light of the gospel to others.

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## Sermon Notes

Please plan to attend and listen to a special speaker,  
**Douglas Cook**  
preach at both the morning and evening services  
on Sunday, **January 8, 2023**  
and at the Wednesday night service  
**January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Gray and the Pulpit Committee have scheduled these opportunities for you to meet Brother Cook and his wife, Michelle, in view of a possible pastoral call. Please plan to attend.



**January 1, 2023**

*Welcome to Harvest  
Baptist Church*

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we hope that you have already received a warm welcome by our Church Family. Our prayer is that the singing, teaching and preaching of the Word of God will meet a need in your heart and life.

### HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH

**Reverend K. Preston Gray, Pastor**  
535 N. Sarival Ave.  
Goodyear, AZ 85338  
\*\*\* 602-361-8025 \*\*\*

[www.hbcgoodyear.org](http://www.hbcgoodyear.org)  
Men's Prayer Meeting 9:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible  
Study 7:00 pm

**Harvest Baptist Church**  
*'Where church still feels like church'*

**Worship Service**

Welcome To Harvest Baptist Church

**Psalms 96:1**

**Go Tell It On The Mountain - 134**

**Glory To His Name - 195**

**Faith Is The Victory - 174**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Instrumental Special**

**In Times Like These - 176**

**Prayer**

**Special Music**

**Message: Pastor**

**Invitation**

**Closing Prayer**



**MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK**

*please pray for...* **John Mark and Kristin Catalan,**  
 our missionaries to Manila



*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*  
 John 4:35

**ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES**  
 are available for use during the church services. Please see Robert in the sound booth if you wish to use this equipment.

**Events and Opportunities**

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all our church members who give of their time, energy and talents to keep our church looking nice.



Saturday January 28 - 9:00 AM

**Visitation Ministry**



**Ladies Bible Study**  
 Every Tuesday  
 10-11 AM in the  
 missionary quarters.

**January 1 - 10:00 AM morning service.**  
**New Years 6:00 PM evening service is a**  
**Candlelight service followed by soup and**  
**sandwiches in the other building.**

**Only Jesus can Satisfy your Hunger**

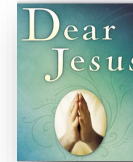
Jesus said to those who were satisfied in their sins, "Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry."  
 (Luke 6:25)

But Jesus said to those who are thirsting for righteousness, "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied."  
 (Luke 6:21)

Jesus is the only source for satisfying your hunger and eternal life (John 14:6).

**OFFERING UPDATE**

Giving Accounts	For The Week of 12/25/2022 - 12/31/2022	Month Total December
General	6,262.32	24,273.19
Missions	2,065.00	4,470.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,327.32</b>	<b>28,743.19</b>
Native American Missions, Inc.	600.00	2,250.00
Christmas Offering	10.00	1,710.00



*I hate it when My children grumble, casually despising My sovereignty. Thankfulness is a safeguard against this deadly sin Furthermore, a grateful attitude becomes a grid through which you perceive life.*

*I confess I am a grumbler. When things are not as I'd like them to be, my first impulse is to complain. Even if I manage to keep my mouth shut, I tend to grumble in my thoughts. Usually when I complain, it doesn't occur to me that I am opposing You and Your ways. It shocks me to realize that grumbling amounts to casually despising Your sovereignty. Forgive me, Lord!*

Beloved, complaining is quite common among My children, but it is nonetheless a deadly sin. When the Israelites grumbled against their leader, Moses, I dealt with them severely. Though they may not have been aware of it, they were actually rebelling against Me, and I responded accordingly: All these complainers who were twenty or older died in the desert, never reaching the Promised Land.

The best safeguard against falling prey to grumbling is thankfulness. When gratitude fills your heart and mind, you will not be tempted to complain. My Word is seasoned with multiple commands to be thankful—for good reason! I ransomed you from eternal punishment through My torturous death on the cross. That alone is sufficient reason for thankfulness. However, I continue to shower additional blessings upon you. Work at developing a grateful mindset., and you will be able to perceive My gifts more clearly. Gratitude also enables you to draw closer to Me. As you learn to give thanks in all circumstances, My loving Presence will increasingly brighten your vision of life.

**Exodus 16:8 Numbers 14:29 1 Thessalonians 5:18**

**When you are going through tough times, guard your heart against complaining. In every situation, choose to worship God and give thanks. God hates complaining and murmuring.**