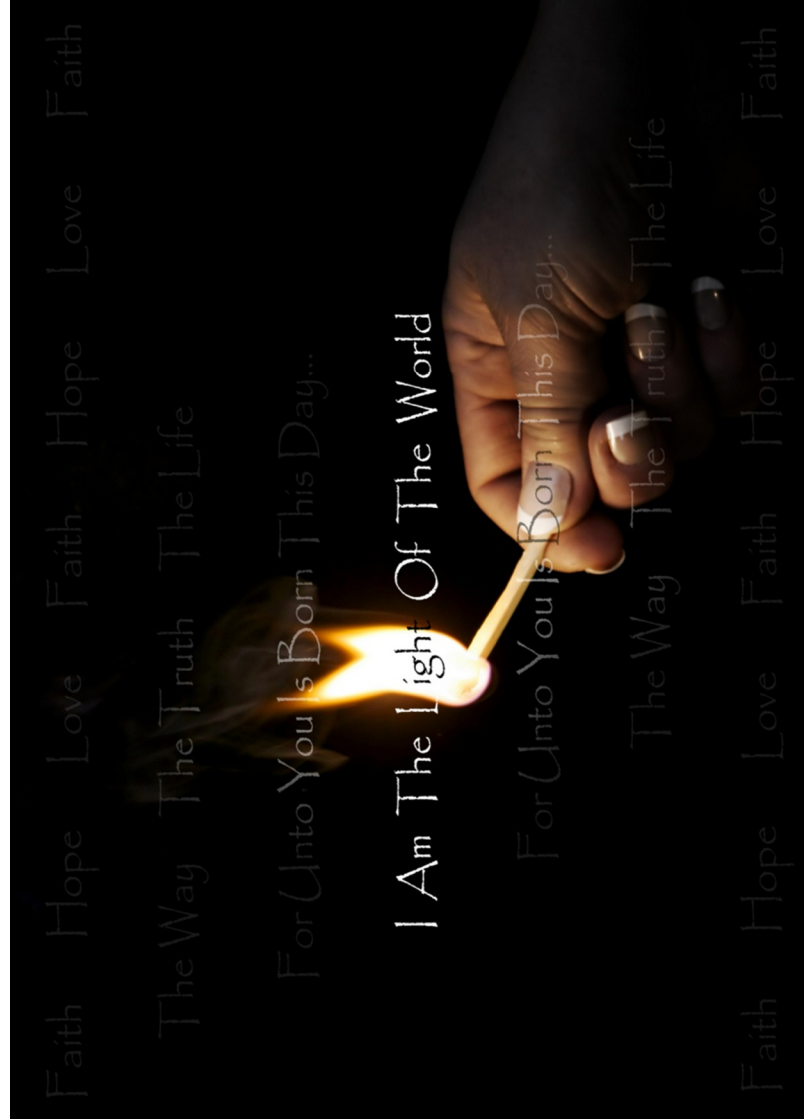


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On TV we see reports of terrorism, war and murder. Terrible crimes are committed against the innocent. Some terrorists even say they have committed their crimes "in the name of God."

Doesn't God care about what is happening in our world, supposedly in His name?

Hate, envy, murder and greed are all deeds of darkness. But the Bible says:

"God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all."

This Christmas - a time for celebrating Christ's birth - millions will be drinking too much, partying, taking drugs and behaving immorally. This darkness has nothing whatever to do with the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Jesus Christ, the true light, has come into the world to bring us out of darkness and into a relationship with God. His Light, shows up our actions and thoughts for what they really are - sinful. God sent His

Son Jesus to die on a cross, bearing our sin and its punishment, that He might *"rescue us from the power of darkness and bring us into the kingdom of His Beloved Son"*. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today to bring men and women *"out of darkness and into His marvellous Light."*

To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is to be saved from the darkness of sin now and forever.

To refuse to believe the Lord Jesus Christ is to condemn yourself to what the Bible calls *"the blackness of darkness forever"*. Jesus clearly taught that anyone who died not believing in Him would spend forever in a place called hell.

Jesus said *"in hell, the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."*

He called it *"outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

This Christmas, as we celebrate that Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been born, let us not forget the reason why He came.

Are you in darkness or Light?