DECEMBER 6/7, 2014
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
The Appearing of God’s Light
2 Timothy 1:8-12 (p. 1015)
Pastor Dennis Keating

Scan the QR code with your smart phone / tablet to access the weekly study notes PDF (outline and fill-ins) on the EFCC Sermon Messages page online at www.efcc.org/sermons/.

THE MAIN POINT
Christmas brought to light God’s ______________ for our lives.
(See John 8:12)

THREE ELEMENTS …

1. God’s ______________ purpose. (1:9)

   THE POINT
   Without Christmas, we would have never known that ______________
   and ______________________ were available to us.

2. God’s ______________ plan. (1:9-10; Eph. 1:4)

   THE POINT
   Christmas shows us God is ______________________.
   (See Gal. 4:4)

3. God’s __________________ provision. (1:10)

   OUR CHALLENGE
   Don’t be ____________ of the __________ of ______________

DECEMBER 6/7, 2014 MESSAGE
SERMON BASED SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Watch Pastor’s Video Blog online at www.efcc.org/video-blog/. Or scan this QR code with your smart phone / tablet to access the video on your mobile device.

Personal preparation for your group time: Read this weekend’s passage, review your outline, and think through the discussion questions. As a group, watch the video blog (see link above).

CONNECTING
1. From the video blog, share about a time Jesus was your “Light” and provided guidance when you were in a “dark” or uncertain place.

GROWING
Discuss some of the spiritual encouragement you received from these main points in this week’s message.

2. God’s spiritual purpose — because of Christmas you have come to know that salvation and transformation are available to you. What are some current ways this is meaningful for you?

3. God’s eternal plan — Christmas shows us that God is orchestrating history. What are some of the current ways this is meaningful for you?

SHARING
4. What is a “next step” for you to take in response to the message?

Using Our S.O.A.P. Journal Devotional
On the following page, you can dive deeper into God’s Word from our study passage via the weekly S.O.A.P. Journal (S.O.A.P. stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer). Our hope in providing this S.O.A.P. companion to the current sermon series is that you will grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord.
S.O.A.P. Devotional Journal

Each day this week, please read through the verses provided. As you move through the week in the passages below, look for something new you didn’t notice the day before and include that observation in your S.O.A.P. Journal notes below.

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:8-12; John 1:9-13; 3:16-21

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:8-12; Ephesians 1:3-10; Galatians 4:3-7

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:8-12; Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Ephesians 3:7-13

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:8-12; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:8-12

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:8-12; Romans 6:5-11; Isaiah 50:4-11

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

Advent Devotional Guide

We have incorporated the use of an Advent Candle Wreath into our weekly worship. The term Advent comes from the Latin version of the word “arrival.” The symbolic nature of the wreath will guide us as we celebrate and enter into the story of our Lord and Savior’s birth. We encourage you to consider purchasing or making an Advent Wreath and follow along each week at home, as part of your own devotional time this season. For the Week 1 devotional, please visit www.efcc.org/advent.

Week 2: The Manger (Incarnation and Salvation)

This week, we turn our eyes to Christ’s birth in Bethlehem.

“Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:1-7

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” Micah 5:2

“For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, and the glory of Your people Israel.” Luke 2:30-32

As we reflect upon Christ and His birth, consider the words “incarnation” and “salvation”; Christ is God-incarnate, He is “God with us” (Matthew 1:23, John 1:14). We come to understand and encounter this mystery in which the Spirit of Christ comes to dwell within us through the act of salvation, by placing our faith in Christ and receiving Him as our personal Savior and Lord (Ephesians 2:8-9, John 1:9-12).

Theologians have written about a place in which our spirit dwells and where we experience the indwelling of Christ’s Spirit when we place our faith in Him and are born again (John 3:3-4). This is what it means to ask Jesus “into your heart.”

Romans 8:11 reads, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Have you invited Christ into your heart? Is there room in your heart for Him?

The Gift of Christmas — Salvation in Christ!

Our minds cannot completely comprehend the mystery of God come to earth to pave the way for our salvation. Yet, God has designed us in such a way that we can receive Him and enter into a personal relationship with Him — the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).

For further study: Romans 8, John 3, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Colossians 1:24-27.
“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

THE MAIN POINT: Christmas brought to light God’s unfolding plan for our lives. (See John 8:12)

“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” John 8:12

THREE ELEMENTS …

1. God’s spiritual purpose. (1:9)

THE POINT: Without Christmas, we would have never known that salvation and transformation were available to us.

2. God’s eternal plan. (1:9-10; Eph. 1:4)

“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.” Ephesians 1:4

THE POINT: Christmas shows us God is orchestrating history. (See Gal. 4:4)

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son;” Galatians 4:4

3. God’s incorruptible provision. (1:10)

OUR CHALLENGE: Don’t be ashamed of the Christ of Christmas.