

# Christmas Light

**Introduction:** Reason for Christmas Lights

Many traditions

**ILL:** Diwali

Light vs Darkness Jn. 1:9; Col.1:13,14

**Light-- in the Darkness Is.9:1,2**

Galilee of the Gentiles

Why **Galilee?**

Gentile Lifestyle

-Place of Public Baths

-Gymnasiums

Story of experiencing darkness

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

Kenneth Bailey

Jesus' Public **Ministry**

Disciples from Galilee

Condemnation of Religious Hypocrisy

**ILL.** Vaccine

**Application:** Beware of **religion** that vaccinates you against a **relationship** with Christ

**Light-- as Fulfilment of Prophecy Matt.4:12-17**

Fulfilled Prophecy shines light on Christ

**Application: Fulfilled Prophecy Can Build Our Faith**

**Light -- to Everyone** Jn. 1:9-18

The **True Light** 1:9

True vs False 2 Cor 11:14

Light to be **Received** 1:12

Reception of the true light--basis of belief

The Light **Reveals** God 1:14,18; Jn.14:9

**Appl.** Jesus as the true light **reveals** God to those who **receive** Him

**Conclusion:**

Beware of **Religion** that vaccinates you against a **Relationship** with Christ

**Fulfilled** Prophecy Can Build Our **Faith**

Jesus as the true light **Reveals** God to those who **Receive** Him

The Lord's Prayer: God our Father  
Matthew 6:5-9

"After the fall of the Soviet Union I was privileged to lecture in Riga for the Latvian Lutheran Church. Most of the participants in the seminar were between the ages of 25-35. This meant that all of their education had been in the communist state system, which was determined to indoctrinate them in atheism. I asked one young woman how she came to faith.

"Was there a church in your village?" I asked.

"No, the communists closed all of them," she replied.

"Did some saintly grandmother instruct you in the ways of God?"

"No. All the members of my family were atheists."

"Did you have secret home Bible studies, or was there an underground church in your area?"

"No, none of that" came the answer."

"So, what happened?"

She told me the following story:

At funerals we were allowed to recite the Lord's prayer. As a young child I heard those strange words and had no idea who we were talking to, what the words meant, where they came from or why we were reciting them. When freedom came at last, I had the opportunity to search for their meaning. When you are in total darkness, the tiniest point of light is very bright. For me the Lord's Prayer was that point of light. By the time I found its meaning I was a christian. "

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By Kenneth Bailey