

I like Christmas lights. Those of you who know me are probably saying, “*That is just calling the kettle black*”. But I really, really like Christmas lights. Just drive by the Bethlehem parsonage and you will begin to understand. I like Christmas lights so much that I continue the fun throughout the year through my various smart light strips and smart bulbs in my home and office. I control these through my smart phone; changing the colors and setting schedules for them to turn on and off. My wife thinks these smart lights are just a toy, I even get an eye roll every now and then, but believe it or not, it’s much deeper for me.

Let’s think about this logically. When you look at a night sky, what captures your attention, the darkness, or the light of the stars and/or moon? When you walk into a room, what captures your attention, the dark corners, or the light source in that room? If you want to hide something, do you hide it out in the open in a lit room, or in a dark space? Darkness conceals but light reveals. Light is so fundamental and important to life, that it was the very first thing God created. “*Let there be light*”, and there was light, revealing the hidden chaos that God eventually put into order.

Now, it may sound like I am laying it on thick in order to defend my “light illness” but, I really do like light. You see, as sinners, we naturally want to hide in the darkness in an effort to conceal our sin. *Do not let anyone know. They will not understand.* And so, Satan provides the darkness so you can hide and thus fall further away from God. But the light reminds me, that even though I try to hide my sin, God still knows, for He Himself is the light. Nothing is hidden from God. And though God knows, He still sent Jesus to forgive my sins. Wow! That is how much God loves me – and YOU. And thus, as a forgiven sinner, I want people to know this awesome love of God. This is done through shining the Light of God’s love.

So, you see, putting up Christmas lights is really a theological thing. [Cue the eye room from my wife], but seriously, it is. The world would have you believe that Christmas is just a joyous secular holiday, but the reason for the season is Jesus. Jesus came to be the light of the world. Jesus came to show us who God is. Jesus came to turn back the darkness. Jesus came to show you a love like none other. Jesus came to establish God’s kingdom. Christmas is not just some big birthday party. Christmas is God’s love being made manifest in Jesus. Jesus came to give you life. And so, I will shine the lights and the Light so God may be glorified, now and forever, Amen.