**The Word of His Power**

Based on [Hebrews 1:1-12](http://biblia.com/books/esv/Heb1.1-12)

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Christmas Day

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How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation.

Salvation means safety, or being taken to a safe place, being rescued. On Christmas Day we remember that the love of god is not that he has taken us to a safe place, but he sent safety to us. He sent his son who is our safe place. In the flesh of Jesus Christ is itself an announcement of peace and of Good News. **It is this, that God Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, creator and upholder of the universe took upon himself our flesh in order to live the life we couldn’t, the life we didn’t, the life we haven’t.** The exact nature and imprint of God is stamped upon the clay of our human flesh; and in that flesh he, the image of the invisible God, came publishing salvation and making purification for our sins.

John begins his Gospel with the beginning. He says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.” **In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth. And God said, let there be light, and there was light.** The word was the light, and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Jesus, the eternal Word of God, the fragile baby in the manger is the light in the darkness. He is the light come into the world, and apart from him there is only Darkness.

Isaiah 9:2 says of the coming Christ, “**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone**.” Jesus Christ is the light, the beacon that draws all men to himself. He is the eternal Word of God, who was with God in the beginning, who was God, and who is the way to God. Thomas his disciple said, “Lord we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way.” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is who shows us the way to God, and who is himself the way to God; he is the light in a world of darkness. Hebrews 1 says, “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

Three announcements from God come together in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. He is the light and shows us who we are and who God is. He is the power of God, because who upholds the universe by his word, who speaks and the wind stops, the waves cease, the darkness gives way. And he is the peace of God, who publishes salvation who rescues, who delivers, who saves his people. An illustration.

Imaging walking down a dark alley. Three facts come into play. First of all you can’t see anything, second you recognize your own vulnerability, third , it’s not a destination because it's not safe place. The whole point of walking down a dark alley is to get through it. In fact the reason you might be there is because you're lost.

Now imagine you see a light up ahead. You are relieved, because light has a source. But who's holding the light? What's its source? You can see better in the light, but perhaps you don't want to go to it because you expose yourself to whatever may be lurking in the shadows. Light gives you awareness of your surroundings, but there's more to consider.

You approach the light and you see it is coming from a man. Robbers and thieves come out from the shadows and it startles you, you are afraid. But the man doesn't fret. The robbers come to attack him, but they cannot overpower him. He overpowers them like they are nothing. The man is powerful, the man can crush his enemies, you are drawn to the light, you are drawn to him, but there's more to consider. He is powerful, but is he good? He can crush his enemies, but will he crush you? He is powerful, but is he safe.

All of mankind is by nature blind. We cannot see the things of God and are born into darkness. But even in our darkness we know of God. We know he is the creator of all things. We know that all things were made by him and without wan not anything made that was made. We know that he knows us, evaluates us, judges us can destroy us if he wants to and he will if he considers us an enemy.

The creator of the heavens and the earth is not just powerful; he is all powerful. He is beyond power. And everyone knows it. Some people deal with the knowledge differently. The Psalms and Proverbs say, “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” If you do not fear the powerful man in the alley, you obviously don’t have a good grasp on reality. Some atheist comedian said, “If I end up at the pearly gate and found out God exists, I would say how dare you allow such suffering in the world.”

"The fool says in his heart there is no God" (Psalm 14:1). It is a fool who walks down a dark alley as if he owns the place. The fool says there is no God...Not just because there is, and he can be plainly seen in what he has made, but because God has all power and authority. You would be a fool to ignore him, to not consider what offends him. You visit a foreign country the first thing you do is learn how to greet them, and find out the customs lest you offend. Imagine entering the presence of God, what kind of a fool would prance around as if he owns the place.

The fool says in his heart “There is no God”, because God has all power and authority in a dark and disorienting universe. And yet we look for power and authority elsewhere. Some look for power and authority in the usual idols, money, sex, drugs and fame. Others seek power in other idols, carving out of the world their own little world in which they are God and exert their own influence and power. This can be your job, your social group, even your family, where you draw borders and put up flags saying this is my property, here there is no god but me. What do you suppose the god of the universe who is all power and glory and might and dominion, will do when he returns to claim what is his, and sees so many no trespassing signs put up in mutiny against his rule. What will the powerful man in the dark alley do when he sees you?

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation. All things anxieties are reconciled in the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. He is the light that exposes our idols for what they are, shines light on our rebellion, exposes the evil that goes on in the darkness so that we are no longer fools fooled by the world and it's deceit.

He is the power of god. Upholds the universe by the word of his power.

He is the salvation of god. In the dark alley of the world you see the light, you see the power, and you can approach it and stand in it for safety and comfort. For your enemies are his enemies, he is the word of god who became flesh to dwell among us, to give us his flesh to eat and his blood to drink that we might have eternal life.