

**HARRINGAY UNITED CHURCH-BAPTIST
SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY 2010.**

TOPIC: ARISE AND SHINE

Text: Isaiah 60:1-7

What is light?

There are about 15 entries on the definition of light on the Web Dictionary and all of them are descriptions and not the definition of light but the closest is 'to illuminate'.

Since experts do not know how to define light, neither do I rather I would say light is the absence of darkness. And please do not ask me to define darkness you will be disappointed that I would say it is the absence of light.

Our young people are having an event may be sometime in February or March and they have chosen the topic 'Time to shine'. I believe that it was the Holy Spirit that prompted them to choose this topic.

It is noteworthy that since last year, they have been hungry and thirsty for God and they have attended various Christian youth conferences and camps which I believed those conferences were part of their journey to where God is taking them. Let us give God praise for them.

Now Eyasu is going ask some questions and explain types and functions of light.

EYASU

1. What types of light do we have? Natural and Artificial;
2. What are the examples of each?
3. Natural Lights are – Sunlight, Moonlight and star lights
4. Where do they get their source from?
5. Sun from its creator (God)
6. Moon and stars from the Sun.
7. Give examples of artificial lights – Candlelight, Electric light, and Gas light, Tilley lamp light, touch light and Lantern light
8. How do these generate their lights? Candle generates its light from its wax, Tilley lamp from kerosene or paraffin, Touch light from battery or winding a mechanism inside it its Green compliant one, Gas light from gas and Electric light from electricity.
9. What happens when these lights are disconnected from their source? they snuffed out
10. What are the uses of these lights? To see in the dark, it disperses darkness.

PAS DAYO

Back to our text Isaiah 60:1-3

Although it is very difficult to define light, its description is not difficult because we all know what we are talking about.

Only two themes are prominent in this passage, darkness and light. Just as we have tried to describe light and darkness the other time in a physical way, I'll try to tell you what they mean in spiritual terms.

Darkness (Isa 13:9-10; Mt 24:29) also is a symbol of the judgments that attend on the coming of the Lord. It is a symbol of misery and adversity (Job 18:6; Ps 107:10; Isa 8:22; Ezek 30:18). The "day of darkness" in Joe 2:2, caused by clouds of locusts, is a symbol of the obscurity which overhangs all divine proceedings. "Works of darkness" are impure actions (Eph 5:11), in contrast with the blaze of cheerful light in the house. It is also a symbol of ignorance (Isa 9:2; 60:2; Mt 6:23) and of death (Job 10:21; 17:13).

On the other hand Light is connected with joy, blessing and life, goodness and beauty and about salvation, justification of the saints. It is about God's holiness (1 Tim. 6:16), presence and favour (Psalm 27:1; Is 9:2; 2 Cor. 4:6). And Jesus referred to Himself as 'the Light of the world' (John 8:12; 9:5).

In short darkness stands for the Devil and all his evil ways and light stand for God and all His good ways

YOUR APPOINTED TIME: TIME TO SHINE V1

Verse 1 is a command for Israel to rise up and shine. Although opinions divide about who is Israel. Some people believed that the Church is the new Israel hence this prophecy is for her. However, others believed that God still have His covenant with the nation of Israel. I believe that both is correct, despite the fact that Christians are the New Israelites, God's covenant for Israel still stand and one day, they will recognise the messiah they have failed to since and all of them will be saved but not until the gentiles salvation is complete.

So to rise up and shine is a command, an encouragement and beauty is for you and for me and especially for you our children. Even though the time this prophecy came was not a time of light but of gloom and darkness in Babylon, but God who sees ahead and has everything under His control knows what He has in stock for His people.

God has the timetable of everyone in His hands and He is faithful to bring into reality what he has planned but our obedience is crucial to achieve what he has planned. He would not force anyone and whatever decision we make, to obey or not determines the outcome.

Since last year, God has been working in and through all of you, He has kindled his Light inside of you by the Holy Spirit, hence it is time to shine. Tell your neighbour 'it's time to shine'.

I believe strongly this is the time each every one of you should sit down look at the gifts and skills God has given to you, if you aren't sure yet, it's time to ask God and He will answer you.

HOW TO BE LIGHT AN NOT DARKNESS. V2

There is a prediction that darkness will cover the whole earth. Darkness is synonymous with evil and Devil and not the physical darkness of night but it has to do with evil deeds, sins, and lusts. It has to do with what Paul mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry,

sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." These of course will lead to misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow and wickedness. They are all the works of the Devil and his agents and their end is sure and the chief of these is unbelief.

But for the redeemed of God as you and I we are the light of God and all its embodiment for people to see the goodness of our God and that is only possible if we reflect His light on us. We must engage in every good work Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law". NKJV

When people around swear you bless; when they hate you love; when they abuse you show compassion; when they steal you give with generous heart; when they lust you maintain your chastity. When they are onlookers at evil, make a difference by showing concern.

RESULTS:

YOU WILL BE AN ATTRACTION V3

When you begin to practice what I have told you above, and you keep it up even in the presence of provocation, intimidation and challenges, people from different background will come to you, people from different nations will come to you, and kings and officials will come to what God is doing in you, through you and for you and they may give their lives to God.

Therefore, Harringay Impact group it's your time to shine, men of favour in Harringay get up and shine, women of vision in Harringay it's time to shine. All Children and all adults in Harringay, it's time to shine.

CONCLUSION

But remember according to Baxter "The light that shines the farthest shines brightest at home." If you want to shine farthest, you have to shine brighter here, this is your home, your base, where there is no hindrance but opportunities, encouragement and platform to let your light shine.

God has given each and every one of you something unique to shine with, and contrary to erroneous idea, shining your light is not necessarily from the front. Only few are called to do that but many are called to do things on the background. You have a smiling face and able to relate to people? You will shine in welcoming team, God has given patience and able to listen, you will be good in pastoral care, listening to and praying for people. You have a good voice, you will shine in worship team, You know how organise and manage, you will shine in administering people and things. The list goes on and on.

Craving for the front is wrong and ill motivated and many times is not always God's plan. If you do not know what God has given you, ask Him and seek help. So Church, rise up and shine.

May your light continue to shine for His glory in 2010 and beyond.