

Message from the Barton Manse.

How quickly the nights are drawing in, how soon we close the curtains and put the radiator on! How quickly we forget about those gorgeous Summer days when the sun warmed our skin and we went out without thought for a cardigan. How soon we have to care for the plants to protect them from the frost!

How we long to stop those early dark evenings and late mornings! How we long for light and warmth again!

And it's not just us, one of the most popular festivals of Hinduism is Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights celebrated every year in autumn.

It signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair and its celebration includes millions of lights shining on housetops, outside doors and windows, around temples and other buildings in the communities and countries where it is observed.

Have you ever awakened in the night and because it was so dark you stumbled on something you could not see? You stumbled because there was no light.

So we understand only too well the concept of darkness and light, don't we?

In John 8:12 it says: "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'"

That is Jesus' point. Those who do not follow Jesus are in spiritual darkness and they do not understand what He is talking about. They are clueless, stumbling in spiritual darkness. We use that phrase don't we "I'm in the dark" when we don't understand something.

And notice that Jesus adds that He is the "Light of **Life**". The word Jesus used here is 'Zoe', the word that is always used for eternal life. Jesus is the light who reveals eternal life. He is the Light of Life. That cannot be said of anybody else. And when we do understand at last what do we say? - "I've seen the light".

Can you imagine never being in the dark again? How wonderful! We become children of Light when we believe that He died and suffered in our place. And he did it so that we might always walk in the light, have eternal light, and have the light of life! If we know the light of life, let us share that light with those around us, and give thanks to God for the gift of His Son.

God bless, Ros

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