

September 5, 2024

**The Lord wants you to live in His light.**

**Joel 2:1** *Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on My holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand.* (NIV) Good news/Bad news. We've all heard those little quips. I've got some good news and some bad news: the good news: your church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks; the bad news: you (the pastor) were on vacation. One more: There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news. The good news is; we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.'

I think we can always relate in some way. We love to hear the good news but cringe to hear the bad. The LORD sounds the alarm through the prophet Joel. He is stating that the time of judgment is drawing very close. So close, that He says to "blow the trumpet." This is always a picture of the imminent announcement of the LORD. Let me tell you, ***the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand!*** (NIV) Now, here's the good news/bad news. The good news is: the day of the LORD is coming soon. **2 Pt. 3:9** *The LORD is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.* The bad news is: many will not listen to the good news. They will hear it, but they won't listen to it. Their ears are dull to the good news. Let me please have your attention! The day of the LORD is coming soon! Please don't be caught with the bad news being your announcement. He loves you so much that the good news is: He paid your sin debt upon the cross so that you could have eternal life. Jesus paid it all for you. Will you receive His gift of salvation? And, if you have, will you tell everyone you know about His precious gift? Bad news/good news: Bad news: **Rom. 3:23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* (NIV) **Rom. 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, (Good news) but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.*

**Dear LORD, thank You for the good news. You have taken the sins of the world upon Yourself and paid our sin debt. I pray that those who read this will listen to the greatest news ever. You have made a way for us into Your holy presence. Thank You LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen**