

The Light of the World

Harmony M.B.C., July 25, 2009 (Morning)

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John 1:6-9 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Light is essential for the existence of most creatures on earth. We know that there are fish in certain caves which live in total darkness and have no eyes. We know that there are some marine creatures who live at the bottom of the deepest oceans which never see sunlight. These kinds of creatures have other sources of energy. However, even the energy they use, such as the volcanic energy on the ocean floor that sustains a whole population of animals and plants in the vicinity of those vents, is energy that derives from the sun. So, all creatures on earth has some kind of life-connection with the light and heat of the sun. For the creatures that God made to travel on the surface and in the shallow waters of the planet, direct light from the sun is their energy source, their source of illumination for seeing. Man is one of those creatures, and even when he goes into the deep caverns or to the bottom of the oceans, he still must get back to where the sun gives light...he must somehow connect with the sun from time to time. For such creatures, their health and existence is dependent on some level of contact with the light of the sun. In total darkness where the sun cannot influence they would waste away and die. Such is the dependence of creatures on earth's surface upon the sun and its light. So, God has used a word in our text to draw us an image about Jesus Christ and His role in the interaction between Himself and the human race.

We want to think about this imagery this morning and notice a few things about Christ as the Light of the world.

I. Since this message from God in our text is a spiritual message, what does this thing about Christ being the Light mean?

- John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
 - > Here, life is light...light is not life; keep this in mind as we look further at what this light is all about.
 - > It is the unique life He possesses that makes Him the Light.
- Christ is the true Light because the life that is in him is the force that sheds light to humans (or illuminates) concerning the reality of eternal life
- Scripture is not saying here in verse 9 of our text that every human creature receives eternal life from Christ; scripture is saying that all revelation about eternal life that is shown to humans is shown by the power of, and through Christ
 - > A falling apple gives us insights into the law of gravity.
 - > Watching a butterfly emerge from a cocoon gives us insights into how that insect reproduces.

- > Tasting of ocean water gives us some insights into the nature or mineral content of the ocean.
- > All the enlightenment humans can ever get about the life of God is gotten by considering Christ.
- Also, this idea is applied more personally to believers and is articulated in 2Cor. 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**
- > The glory of God among creatures is His ability and capacity to give eternal life to as many as He shall call. Looking to Christ (looking in His face) we see that glory...we get knowledge about eternal life.
- Humans would never know what the nature of immortal or eternal life was, without the witness of Christ - what does Christ witness to that gives us insights into what eternal life is?
 - > Eternal life is about acceptance by the Lord (This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased)
 - > Eternal life is about being righteous before God (Rev. 16:5 - Christ declared to be righteous, and in His deeds we saw righteousness)
 - > Eternal life is about coming out of death (Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore.)
 - > Eternal life is about a new and eternal birth (John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Christ came and gave power to those who received him)
 - > Eternal life is about becoming a new creature (He showed us what a new creature was; one who was both man and divine; both human and of God)
 - > Eternal life is about both right and privilege of ascending to God (He ascended back to heaven)
 - > Eternal life is about entering into an eternal inheritance and living with God (He has received a kingdom from God the Father)

II. What is the human response to the spiritual Light I am speaking about?

- There are at least two responses: one has to do with incapacity brought on by sin; the other has to do with rational choice.
 - > There is the species response
 - John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
 - > There is the volitional response (response of choice and intent)
 - John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

III. What are the benefits from the light of Christ?

- **Those who come to the light, escape living in darkness**
 - > John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.
 - The tragedy of people who abide in darkness is that they don't know where they are going: John 12:35 "...he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."
- **Those who come to the light, escape having a pattern of life that is called "walking in darkness"**
 - > John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
 - There is clarity of understanding connected with having life in Christ
 - See: Dan. 2:22 He **revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness**, and the light dwelleth with him.
 - Contrast: those who do not walk in the light don't have a clue about what is really present in the darkness
 - There is a path of purpose in following Christ ("...shall have the light of life.") All that a human needs to have purpose in life is to understand his or her role in the great plan of God...light of life ensures that.
 - As believers , we have no excuse for being led off into any darkness ("...he that followeth me shall not, etc....")

IV. The Light of Christ today; how does it relate to us? Two verses connected explain it:

John 9:5 and Matthew 5:14 together

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Mat. 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.