

"The Coming Light"

John 1:9-13

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at John 1:6-8 and it was in those verses that John wrote concerning John the Baptist. John was sent to be the forerunner of Jesus Christ and as the forerunner he was to be a witness.

Notice John 1:7-8

John was to bear witness of the Light who was Jesus Christ. John was not THAT Light, but he was called to be a witness of THAT Light. John's ministry was to ALL men not just a select few. This helps us to understand that salvation is available to all people and not just the "ELECT" as many people teach.

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

This now brings us to where we stopped last week.

"The Light for All Men"

Notice John 1:9

There are a couple of points to see in this verse. First of all, we see that John tells us that Jesus is the True Light which implies that there is another light as well in the world.

The word "TRUE" means "genuine." Jesus is the Genuine Light. From this we can conclude that there is also a artificial/counterfeit light that exists in our world. The word "counterfeit" helps us to understand the source of this other light. It is Satan and we should in no way be surprised that he produces a counterfeit light.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Not only does Satan counterfeit the True Light but he also has servants which counterfeit the True Light. Just as Jesus is the True Light and we are to carry His Light into the world, so Satan presents himself as a light and his followers go out and carry the counterfeit light into the world and into the church.

Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

²⁵ But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

²⁶ But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

²⁷ So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

²⁸ He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

²⁹ But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

All of this then raises a question, "How does Satan use the counterfeit light?" He uses it in the lives of unbelievers to lead them down the path of destruction.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Satan shines a light on a path marked "This way to heaven," but it is really the way to hell. It is a path that appeals to self-righteous people. It is a path that is broad so those who enter can continue in their sin, and he convinces them that they are saved. This is a path that is lit by Satan and there are many who have entered the wide gate to this path.

He also uses the counterfeit light to lead believers into false teaching. If someone strays from the Word they walk on a dangerous path. It is the Light of Jesus Christ as we stay in the Word that keeps us from getting caught up in false teaching. It is the True Light that enables us to recognize the counterfeit light.

Psalms 119:105, 110

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.

Getting back to John 1:9a, Jesus is the True Light, and our world is full of spiritual darkness and is growing darker everyday therefore we desperately need the True Light poured into our lives as we live in the midst of the darkness.

Notice John 1:9 again.

We need to look closely at the end of this verse. John tells us that Jesus lights every man that comes into the world. What does this mean? Let us consider this in two ways.

1. What it does not mean.

This verse is used by a group called the Quakers and they teach that this verse means that every person is born with the presence of Jesus within them. Notice the information from the Quaker website.

"The concept of the Inner Light, often referred to as the "Inward Light," has its roots in the teachings of George Fox, the founder of the Quaker movement in the 17th century. Early Quakers believed that this light was a direct manifestation of Christ's presence within individuals, illuminating their conscience and guiding them in their spiritual journeys.

The Inner Light is seen as a reflection of "that of God in everyone," emphasizing the belief that every person possesses a divine spark. This belief underpins Quaker values of equality, social justice, and nonviolence, as it encourages individuals to recognize the inherent worth of all people. Quakers often engage in silent worship, where they seek to connect with this Inner Light, allowing it to guide their thoughts and actions."

We know this is not correct because the Bible teaches that only believers have the Holy Spirit within them. As the church/body of Jesus Christ, we are very unique. We have the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament saints were given the Holy Spirit but only for specific tasks and then He would depart. The Tribulation saints will not be indwelt with the Holy Spirit as we are. We are the only group that is given the Spirit and He never leaves us. But unbelievers are dead in their sins which means they are separated from God because of sin. To be separated from God means to be separated from the Light. They have no spiritual light in them, but they are children of darkness.

Ephesians 5:8

⁸ *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

1 Thessalonians 5:5

⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Since we are the children of light, this then implies we were the children of darkness. Thus, unbelievers are children of darkness. There is no Divine Light in them.

2. What it does mean.

Every person that comes into this world somehow experiences the Light of Jesus Christ. Some experience the Light through salvation. We get saved and we are taken from the darkness and placed into the Light. Now because we are in the Light our view of the world and all that happens in the world changes. Our priorities change because now we can see what has spiritual importance. We can now see what we were blinded to when we were unsaved.

Those who reject Jesus Christ are also exposed to THE LIGHT as they are illuminated with regard to their sin and to the coming judgment.

John 3:18-21

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

¹⁹ 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.

²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Conclusion:

Today we carry within us the life and the Light of Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to shine His Light into a world of darkness.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Notice the story of an unnamed writer.

A Great Light - "I was driving through the mountains of western Maryland on a cold December night. As I topped a ridge near Rocky Gap State Park, a brilliant sea of lights caught my attention. What in the world is that? I wondered as the exit road flashed past. It so aroused my curiosity that 5 miles down the interstate I turned around and drove back to see what it was—a local community's celebration in lights during the Christmas season. At noon, I wouldn't have noticed anything. But at night, the dazzling display couldn't be ignored. Strange, isn't it, that we complain about the moral and spiritual darkness of our world, yet it is the perfect setting for the radiance of the Lord Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we often read these prophetic words: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus said of Himself: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), and to His disciples, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." (Matthew 5:14). In a dark world, people don't see a great light without wondering why it's there and what it means. We get to tell them."