

"The Coming Light"

John 1:9-13

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we looked at John 1:10-12.

Notice John 1:1—11

In these verses John tells his readers that Jesus had come into the world, but the world did not know Him. Then John goes further and tells us that He came unto His own, that is to the Jews, and the Jews received Him not. The world rejected Him because of ignorance but the Jews rejected Him because of unbelief. But there was a remnant of Jews who did receive Him.

Notice John 1:12

Those who did receive Him which means to believe on Him, were given power to become the sons of God. When we ended last week, we were talking about what it means to believe on Jesus Christ. It is not just head knowledge. That is not saving faith. It is believing on Him for the forgiveness of sin. It is resting your faith upon Him as the only means to get us into the presence of God. It is resting upon His finished work upon the cross as the payment for your sin debt.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

I want to go a little deeper and remind us that believing on Jesus Christ gives to us a relationship in which we know the Father and the Son personally.

John 17:2-3

² As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

To be saved is to know the Lord in a personal way. One of the clearest pictures of what this life looks like is the life of Daniel. It is trusting the Lord in every trial and storm that comes upon us. It is walking with Him between the storms of life and allowing Him to refine us into the person He desires for us to be.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Now as we move on John gives us another verse connected with the two, we looked at last week. In this verse he gives us details of the new birth of the believer.

Notice John 1:13

There are three negatives and a positive in this verse. Let us consider the negatives first.

1. The new birth is not by blood.

Let me first of all explain what John is NOT saying here. He is not saying that there is not a need for a blood sacrifice for our sins. It is only by a blood sacrifice that our sins can be paid for.

Genesis 3:7, 21

⁷ *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

²¹ *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

This was the first blood shed for sin.

Romans 5:8-9

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Colossians 1:20

²⁰ And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Hebrews 9:22

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

These are just a few verses and from these we can see that apart from the blood of Jesus Christ we would have no hope. Getting back to the point, John is NOT saying there is no need for a blood sacrifice. That is not what he means.

The idea here is that we are not born again through the family blood line. It makes no difference if our parents are saved and everyone of our siblings are saved so that we can say that we come from a "Christian" family, this does not somehow make us born again believers. The family blood line has nothing to do with our new birth. This is what John is saying here.

2. The new birth is not by the will of the flesh.

This does not mean that we have no choice. We do have a choice. God has made man with a free will, and we MUST make the choice to accept the offer of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 4:3-7

³ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

⁶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Here in this text, we see that Cain was faced with a choice, just as we also were. Getting back to the point, when John says that the new birth is not by the will of the flesh, he is not saying that we do not have a choice. We do have a choice, and we see it in verse 12 where John said that those who believe on Jesus are born again.

What John IS saying is that we cannot just decide that we are going to be born again and have it happen. Notice the words of Phillips.

"No amount of wishful thinking makes me a child of God. I might wish I were the child of a millionaire but that does not make me one. I may even live in a fantasy world where I convince myself that I am the son of a millionaire, but to do so is folly."

There are many people in this world that actually believe that because they have decided to call themselves a Christian that they are a child of God. But they are deceived.

3. The new birth is not by the will of man.

The point that John is making here is that no one can cause someone else to be born again. We may desire to see a lost person saved but we cannot will them to be born again. There are people we would love to see be born again. We can share the Gospel, and pray for them, but we cannot bring about a new creation in them. This now brings us to the positive.

a. The new birth is only by the power of God.

It is God that does the miraculous work in the sinner and that is exactly what the new birth is, a miracle! God causes the believer to be born again the very moment that he or she places their faith in Jesus Christ. Before the new birth we were spiritually dead but the moment we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ then God caused us to be born again and now we have spiritual life.

➤ God in the Flesh

Notice John 1:14

Here John tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among man. This statement was certainly directed against the Gnostics. The Gnostics taught that matter was evil and the soul was good. They also taught that Jesus was never really human, but He was only a spirit. John also addressed this false teaching in 1 and 2 John.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

2 John 1:7

⁷ *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

Notice John 1:14 again.

John declares in this verse that he was a witness to the glory of Jesus Christ. He refers to Jesus as the only BEGOTTEN of the Father. The word "begotten" separates Jesus from all other men. It means "one of a kind, unique" and it refers to the fact that while Jesus was fully man, He was sinless and perfect. How was John a witness to the glory of Jesus? He is probably referring to the privilege he had on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Matthew 17:1-2

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

² *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

We know also that John saw Jesus in all His glory on Patmos.

Revelation 1:14-17

¹⁴ *His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;*

¹⁵ *And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.*

¹⁶ And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

¹⁷ And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Notice John 1:14 again.

John tells us Jesus was full of grace and truth. This is a wonderful statement. Jesus was the Truth and He came to reveal the Truth to the world. There was much confusion in Jesus' day just as in our day.

John 18:37-38

³⁷ Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

*³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

Not only was Jesus full of Truth but He was also full of Grace. This is a beautiful combination. He came to reveal to the world that He was the only way to the Father and He also came to show Grace to every sinner.

Conclusion/Application:

In closing I will just remind us that this same balance should be in our lives also. We should be people of Truth, knowing the Bible, and people of Grace. Often there is an imbalance in a believer's life. Much knowledge can lead to less Grace and then on the other hand some people show an abundance of Grace, but they are too lean on Truth. These people don't want to offend so they withhold the Truth. There needs to be a balance in our lives just as in the life of Jesus.