

**Sermon Text:** John 1:14-5 The Eternal Word Is the Life of Wisdom

**Because divine life is in Christ, He imparts wisdom to save His people from the darkness of sin.**

**1) Divine life is in Christ (1:4a).**

- a) Language and concepts drawn from Genesis 1-3:
  - i) Life=Tree of Life
  - ii) The sacramental tree promised eternal life with God in Paradise (cf. Gen. 3:22).
- b) What is divine life?
  - i) Self-existence (5:26)
  - ii) Life with God (John 1:1b, 12; 17:21)
  - iii) Resurrection life (5:25-29; 11:25-26).
  - iv) Knowing God (17:3; 1:18).
- c) Christ's life is the life of God because He is God (1:1c).
- d) Christ's becoming flesh (1:14) allows us who are flesh to become partakers of that divine life (2 Pet. 1:4).

**2) Christ imparts wisdom (1:4b).**

- a) Language and concepts drawn from Genesis 1-3:
  - i) light=knowledge
    - (1) Serpent's lie—Eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil will impart wisdom/knowledge (light).
    - (2) God's truth—Eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil will bring death (guilt/shame and physical death).
    - (3) Genesis 1 light/darkness parallels Genesis 2-3 eating of the Tree of Life/Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
    - (4) Light or wisdom would have been found in obedience which would have been completed in eating of the Tree of Life.
    - (5) Darkness fell on humanity when Adam sought wisdom apart from trust in and obedience to God.
    - (6) Torah (instruction and wisdom from God) was connected with light and the Tree of Life.
  - ii) Just as the Word/Christ is the reality behind the Tree of Life, He is also the true light, the embodiment of God's Torah/wisdom.

**3) Christ's light saves us from the darkness of sin (1:5).**

- a) Adam's sin brought humanity into the darkness of sin:
  - i) Darkened will—evil determination (Gen. 4:7; John 8:44)
  - ii) Darkened mind—evil devices (Gen. 6:5; John 8:45-57)
  - iii) Darkened conscience—evil discernment (Gen. 19:9; John 9:39-41)
  - iv) Darkened affections—evil desire/devotion (1 Kings 21:25; John 3:19-21)
  - v) Darkened works—evil deeds (Eph. 5:11 “unfruitful deeds of darkness”)
  - vi) Darkened being—Ephesians 5:8a “for at one time you were darkness”
- b) Christ's light shines into the world of human darkness (1:5a)
  - i) Shines through the promise (Gen. 3:15; 9:8-17; 22:18)
  - ii) Shines through the prophets
  - iii) Shines through the pictures/types
  - iv) Shines through the person of Christ incarnate (1:14)
- c) Christ's light overcomes the darkness (1:5b).
  - i) “the darkness has not overcome it”—“overcome” “comprehend”— “master”

ii) Ephesians 5:8 “For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”

(1) Enlightened being—“you are light”

(2) Enlightened works—“fruit of light”

(3) Enlightened affections—“children of light” (cf. John 3:19; 12:36)

(4) Enlightened conscience—“try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord”

(5) Enlightened mind—“true”

(6) Enlightened will—“good and right”

iii) Christ’s estate of humiliation, ending in the grave, is the hour of darkness in which evil tries to extinguish the light (John 12:35; Luke 22:53). The Gospel of John does not end with crucifixion, but with Christ’s resurrection, the victory over the darkness and every anti-Christ power (John 16:33).

4) **Application:**

a) Are you a son of the light (12:36)? Do you believe in the light of Christ?

b) Beware of counterfeit light (2 Cor. 11:12-15; Gal. 1:8-9; Col. 2:20-23).

c) Are you growing in Wisdom (Eph. 1:17-20; 3:18-19)?

i) Walk in the light (1 John 1:7): know the truth and live the truth.