

John 1:6-14 Epiphany

Those who believe in the incarnate Word have the Light to see God's glory in the world.

1) The Eternal Word is the Light who reveals knowledge of God in the world (1:6-10a).

- a) John the Baptist bore witness to the Light (1:6-8).
- b) The True Light (1:9a):
 - i) Illuminates the darkened world (1:5)—Overcomes noetic (mind) effects of sin (think of illumination of sun)
 - ii) Is the Life of God (1:4)—His self-existence gives existence to all things (think of energy of sun)
 - iii) Is the Divine Word (1:1)—Revelation of God is both rational and relational
 - iv) Enters the world to enlighten humanity (1:9-10a)—Revelation to humanity generally (General Revelation)
 - v) Designed the world to enlighten humanity (1:10b)—Revelation through cosmos (well-ordered world)
 - vi) Came to Israel through Prophets and Scripture (1:11a)—Revelation to covenant people specially (Special Revelation)
 - vii) Became incarnate (1:14; cf. 8:12; 9:5)—Revelation Climax
 - viii) Must be believed/received (1:7b, 12):
 - (1) Unregenerate humanity rejects Him (1:10c, 11b)
 - (2) Divine Regeneration is necessary to receive Him (1:13)

2) Believing the Eternal Word Incarnate opens the eyes to behold God's glory in the world (1:14).

- a) "We have seen His glory, glory as of the Only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - i) The incarnation of the Word is the fullest display of God's glory.
 - ii) Psalm 36:9b "in Your light do we see light"—Everything becomes clearer when we know God, the Creator, Sustainer, and Goal of all things.
- b) God's children:
 - i) see creation as their Father's handiwork (1:12). Calvin—"theater of God"
 - ii) hear creation as the voice of the Word (1:12). Kuyper—God speaks with creation
- c) 1 Corinthians 15:39-41—creatures have different degrees or aspects of glory
- d) Common Grace—glimpses of light for the unbeliever
- e) Calvin—Spectacles of Faith

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Application:

- Are you growing in the knowledge of Christ?
- Are you growing in appreciation/reverence/joy/gratitude for the manifold works of God in creation?
- Are you growing in appreciation/reverence/joy/gratitude for the image of God in humanity?
- Can you discern the groping for God (Acts 17:27) evident in cultural works? How can you develop these insights to minister to people more thoughtfully? How can you use these insights to foster gospel conversations?

Doxology: He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see—to Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.
(1 Timothy 6:15-16)