

THE REALITY OF SUPERNATURAL LIGHT

IF YOU ARE IN THE DARK there is nothing you need more than LIGHT! Man is completely helpless when all of the lights go out. Did you ever study about the situation this world would face if all the light of sun, moon and stars were to go out? If all man-made light was gone, what condition would we be in? What could we do? We would be paralyzed indeed.

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:13-18). There is the “Reality of Supernatural Light.” And, my fellow-pilgrims and sojourners, I hope you realize that we have two kinds of light in this world. First, we have natural light which includes the sun, moon, stars and all other God-given and man-made lights in the natural realm. Then, secondly, we have intellectual light, or the light in the understanding. It is this phase of light we are discussing tonight, and here too we have two kinds of light, the natural and the supernatural or spiritual. In the natural realm, whether intellectual light or physical light, one can see that this is a provision of God our Creator, without which we could not function. But it has nothing to say about redemption or God as our Saviour.

None of this natural light is saving light! The only saving light that we can know about or experience is this supernatural light that God gives His people in the new creation. We have spoken to you on ***“Will God’s Elect Be Deceived?”*** and we saw that God says, “If it were possible, the elect would be deceived.” But that is not possible, because God is looking after the welfare of His own dear people and will deliver them from all forms of deception. Following, then, upon this subject is the matter before us tonight—***“The Reality of Supernatural or Saving Light.”***

As an introduction, I would like to point out five things. (1.) *God connects salvation and revelation with His Son.* “Peter, whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” “Well, Lord, the world is all confused about who you are. Some think you are Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. And that’s all they know; they do not know who you really are!” That is as far as man’s natural light will take him. “But, Peter, whom do ye say that I am?” But at that moment the supernatural light of God arose in Peter’s soul as he gave the only saving answer to the question: ***“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!”*** And the Lord Jesus replied, “Peter, not a rabbi in Jerusalem could give you that light. The sun, moon and stars could not give you that light. It is not wisdom from the earth, but ***My Father which is in heaven gave you that light!***” That light comes directly down from Heaven and rises up inside of you, a saving revelation from God on WHO Jesus is! This is something that must take place in your soul if you are saved or ever will be saved.

(2.) *God never makes salvation easy nor simple.* You hear some fellow talking about the “simplicity of the gospel” and how “easy it is to be saved,” you know that he is ignorant of the matter. The salvation of a sinner is not easy, nor has it ever been, nor will it ever be easy. Do you think it was an easy matter for the Eternal Son of God to abdicate His throne, come down here into this world through the womb of the virgin Mary, born in the home of very simple parents? And remember when He was first born, He was as much GOD as He is now. If that be not so, then the entire superstructure of the Old and New Testaments falls apart. Was it simple? Is the birth of a child ever a simple matter? No, and neither is the spiritual birth ever simple. God made humankind in four different ways. He made Adam without using either a man or a woman. Then He created Eve by using a man but not a woman. But from Cain and Abel on down through history the Lord uses both a natural mother and

father in bringing forth a new human being. But in the case of His Son, God gave Him His natural body by the use of a woman but no man—born of the virgin, a supernatural way. God never made the salvation of His people simple. No doubt the hardest thing Israel ever had to do was to say, “Good-bye” to Egypt, “Good-bye” to the watermelons, “Good-bye” to the flesh pots and all the delicacies they had in Egypt. But they turned their backs on it all and headed out for the land of Canaan! Nothing easy about that! And God is going to bring you this same way—you must separate from and turn your back on the world in order to find Him.

(3.) Also we would have you notice that *God never made salvation in a plan*. Salvation is not in a **PLAN**, but it is in a **MAN**, the GOD-MAN! We have today a popular tract called “The Four Spiritual Laws.” You go right down the line (“1-2-3-4”) and accept each of these, and then you have got salvation! But that is **not** salvation. I’ve reviewed many tracts with titles such as “God’s Simple Plan of Salvation,” but that is not the Gospel but rank heresy. Salvation is not in a plan or a formula, but in God’s divine revelation of His only-begotten Son. Salvation is in Christ alone.

(4.) *God never made salvation possible. God made salvation certain!* If God only made your salvation possible, then there is something you must do to finish it. Then salvation is by works and not by grace. If God only gave us a chance to be saved, we would all wind up in Hell—and then God’s provision would be a total failure! Then the character of God, the predestination and purposes of God, the death of His Son, are in vain. God never made salvation a mere possibility, but an absolute certainty. Then the question arises, “To whom is God’s salvation certain?” In John 6:37 we find the answer, **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me.”** That is just a sure and certain as that God is still on His throne! “ALL.” Who are the “All”? The given ones, those that God elected and gave to His Son to save! But the Arminians won’t quote the first part of John 6:37 as I have done. They only want the last part, **“And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”** They are dishonest to play with a verse in this way. I believe the last clause of the verse, just exactly because I believe the first part. We are not afraid of God’s truth; but an Arminian or any person who proclaims a “possible” salvation is scared to give you all the truth. Let’s be honest with the Word of God and give people these great spiritual truths. I’m too near my Heavenly Home to play around or compromise the whole counsel of God!

(5.) *It is God’s responsibility and prerogative to give this supernatural light.* “Peter, GOD gave this light to you!” I think Peter perhaps when he first began following the Lord had some questions about who Jesus was, but on this occasion the full light from Heaven flooded his soul and he knew! Oh, my, what a wonderful thing is this supernatural revelation coming down from God out of Heaven and welling up in the heart of one of His children! **“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!”** A man is blessed of God when he comes to that sure revelation of Christ. It is not his own light, but God’s light! And when God gives this light, I have no doubt that His elect people will respond to the light. **“My sheep hear my voice ... and they follow me,”** the Lord assures us in John 10:27. There is no “maybe so” or “guess so” about it, but it is certain. There is no place in the Bible where God ever made a proposition or a simple “offer” to either saint or sinner. If you can find it, come and show me. If this is true, then salvation is dependent on you doing your part to make it certain. But the sinner being spiritually dead, what part are you going to do? God gives no proposition, but He does give promises and He applies them, **“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us”** (2 Corinthians 1:20). You see, those promises are given by God, for the glory of God, and are activated in our hearts by His Holy Spirit to make them alive to us. And this belief of the promises is more than just saying, “I believe the Bible.” The devil himself believes the Bible but He has no supernatural light unto salvation. Satan can quote Scripture; he knows it by memory but he does not know it by heart. So, I repeat, it is God’s responsibility to give this divine light, and it is your responsibility to walk in that light as it is given.

Always remember that God is sovereign as to the time of light, the amount of light and as to whom He gives that light. It was a particular, God-appointed moment in Peter’s life when God gave

him this divine light. Why didn't he have it sooner? It was not God's "set time." Remember that **"Sarah conceived and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him"** (Genesis 21:2). "At the set time!" There was nothing could change that set time, ladies and gentlemen. God crossed my path and saved me when I was 27 years old. Why didn't He save me sooner? He could have, you know. That was His "set time," for He is sovereign in everything that He does, especially in the salvation of His children.

We will be considering four questions in dealing with this supernatural light.

I. WHAT SHALL WE SAY ABOUT THIS SUPERNATURAL LIGHT? Seeing that this light is connected with God's Son and is essential to salvation, you cannot be saved by these shallow soul-winners. This supernatural light will only come to you in God's time, in God's way and through God's channel—and will come when it pleases God. What do we find about this light?

First, *this Light comes from God*. If it is a supernatural light, that is an accepted fact. It must originate with Almighty God. "Peter, flesh and blood did not reveal it unto you, but my Father."

Second, *this supernatural light comes down from Heaven*. This world does not have this light, and cannot produce it. True it is that we can make candles and lamps and produce some natural light—not to the extent of the lights that God made, the sun, moon, stars, *aurora borealis* or northern lights, then once every 75 years the great light of Haley's Comet. Those are great lights, but there is no salvation in any of them. **"A man can receive nothing except it be given him from Heaven"** (John 3:27). "Peter, you got this revelation of My Person from My Father in Heaven!"

Thirdly, *this light comes suddenly*. God will take hold of an old sinner in the day of His power (see Psalm 110:3), at a time when least expected. I remember sitting in a Baptist church in Waynesville, North Carolina when an overpowering light touched me. And that light arrested me; suddenly I saw myself undone, wretched and miserable, standing before a Holy God. You say, "Preacher, that has never happened to me." Then you are not saved!

Then fourthly, *it is a light that comes in a direct, supernatural way*. It cannot operate by means; there are no means to produce it. If so, what are the means? "Peter, flesh and blood did not reveal this unto you!" That does away with means. "My Father in Heaven revealed it."

Fifth, *this is a light that comes to you inwardly*. An outside, surface light would not help you. Your darkness is not out here but inside of you! It's an inner darkness and can only be reached by an inner light. I know that your outward darkness sometimes responds to means, but that will not result in your salvation. You need God to place light in you, and this He does in the supernatural work of regeneration when the Holy Ghost of God comes in to dwell.

Next, I would point out that *this inward light comes irresistibly*. How are you going to keep it out, block it from coming or do anything to assist it when it does come? All the light that can save you comes from God and it comes in a direct line from the throne of God, immediately and irresistibly, at a speed that is entirely beyond human conception. It is GOD saving your soul, for **"Salvation is of the Lord"** (Jonah 2:9).

In the seventh place, *this light comes as a saving light*. It doesn't just shine about you and leave you with no salvation. It effectually, positively and permanently becomes yours. You are secured for Heaven and immortal glory when once you are made partaker of this divine light.

Eighth, *this light comes as an illuminating light*. We walk in darkness until this light comes. "In time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephesians 2:2-3). We could not see the light, could not know our true condition, nor turn to God until the Lord gave us the illuminating light from Heaven.

Ninth, *it comes as an indispensable light*. You cannot trust a man that is not revealed, and there is no way for you to know who Jesus Christ is unless the Father reveals Him. When He walked this earth in Person and men looked upon Him, they did not and could not by physical sight know who Jesus was. And if men didn't know Him when they naturally looked upon Him, how do you expect a sinner to come to know Him now when He is invisible? There is no hope apart from God's revelation. All of these little soul winners run around asking everybody, "Do you believe that you are a sinner? And do you believe that Christ died for sinners? And will you trust Him to save you now?" And that old sinner wants to stay out of Hell, so he replies in the affirmative; then the soul-winner assures him that he has salvation. But that is NOT salvation. It is a gigantic deception of the present day; it is spiritual murder in the first degree. But the saving light that God gives is indispensable. In saving your soul, Christ gives you that light. He ***"was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world"*** (John 1:9). A preacher cannot give you that light, for it is not in the power of the preacher to get on the inside of you and open your heart, open your ears, and open the understanding of your soul. It must come from Heaven.

"I am the Light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). Now, how is any sinner going to follow the Lord until he knows Him? Remember, Enoch of old walked with God. He was not walking with a stranger. Something had happened to Enoch and he knew God in a personal way. God was there with him assuredly, or the patriarch could not have walked with Him. Enoch was able to walk in the light, for this supernatural light had been revealed to him and in him. He was walking in the light!

In 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 we read, ***"If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 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."*** Who are blinded? Those who are under the control of "the god of this world. And many of them that are blinded are out here trying to preach the Gospel—they don't preach any Gospel, but merely preach themselves in Christ's name. There are many devil-called preachers and they are being used by Satan to blind many sinners. But God's true servant is not preaching himself but Christ Jesus the Lord, as Paul says. And then when we preach Christ, God is busy shining into the hearts of sinners and giving them the true saving knowledge of Christ—this supernatural light!

II. HOW DOES THIS SUPERNATURAL LIGHT COME? We have been hinting at it all along. Listen. Can you induce God to shine in you? Can you force God to act in your behalf? No. It is God's work.

First, I would stress that this supernatural, divine, saving light from Heaven comes as it is *immediately imparted by the Spirit of God and not by natural means*. Oh, so many preachers are trying to help God to reach people and save them, but the moment the preacher shines his own light he merely blinds that old sinner! The most solemn thing I have ever faced, and the most dangerous thing in all the world, is for preachers to get up and set forth true doctrine without the power of the Holy Ghost upon the message. Truth apart from the Spirit of God is blinding and damning. True saving knowledge or light is immediately imparted—suddenly, unexpectedly given. Yes, this work is always spoken in the sense of being an immediate work of God, an inward work of grace. It is God who gives this light, friends, and no man is saved without it. Paul tells us how it came to him: ***"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood"*** (Galatians 1:15-16). "When it pleased God"—that's when salvation came to Paul! And what happened? God revealed His Son IN Paul in an immediate, internal work of grace. I believe that if God

had merely presented Christ to Saul of Tarsus in an outward manner, that old Pharisee would have rejected Him. But there is no such thing as rejecting Jesus. You listen to me—all of this “accept Jesus” or “reject Jesus” stuff that is preached today is the devil’s lie. I challenge you to show me where anybody ever rejected Jesus as Lord in salvation—they rejected His testimony; they rejected Him as the Messiah; they refused to acknowledge Him as King. But in God’s dealings in salvation, a sinner never gets far enough to “reject Jesus.” This poor little “Jesus” of today that is “rejected” by everybody—that is not the Christ of this Book!

When it pleased God I had my natural birth, back yonder in the western North Carolina mountains. Then when it pleased God I had my spiritual birth, as He called me by His grace and revealed His Holy Son “IN” me! That is salvation, brother! And there is no other kind. God must reveal HIS SON. “Now, sinner, come on and accept Jesus!” That’s a messenger of Satan who is headed to eternal destruction!

Secondly, *this light revealed by God is a true and saving belief of truth.* You do not know the truth until it is revealed to you, just as you cannot know the Lord Jesus apart from revelation. Many had a temporary “faith” and a temporary knowledge of truth and followed the Lord for a time. Then when He preached along this line of the sovereignty of God in salvation **“many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him”** (John 6:66). **“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God”** (verses 67-69). Peter seems to say, “We would go somewhere else, Lord, but we have nowhere else to go. All that we have or claim to have is tied up in You, and we have received the words of eternal life!” This is Simon Peter talking, the same man who received the revelation from God the Father, as stated in our text in Matthew! When God has revealed Christ inside of you, then you don’t need any soul-winner to introduce you to Him!

Thirdly, *this light is let into the mind by God and God alone.* We have been stressing that it was and is altogether beyond any works of the creature. When this light came unto Paul it was **“a light from heaven”** (Acts 9:3).

Then *this light is a spiritual and saving conviction of truth arising in the soul.* Because of its effectual, saving nature, the sinner’s soul always rises up and responds to that light. **“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth”** (John 1:14). **“Beheld”** here means a transforming stare, a fixing of the mind and the senses upon this glory of the only-begotten Son of God. And we so beheld Him that we couldn’t get away from Him, couldn’t forget Him nor His glory. The view transformed us.

III. WHAT THIS SUPERNATURAL LIGHT DOES. This will distinguish *where* the light is, by *what* that light is doing. And if you have it coming to every man of the human race you have universal salvation. And of course that would be all right with me if God saved every human being. You would have to accept it as right. Also if He only saves a select portion of the human family, then that must be OK with you also! And that is what God has done and is doing!

As you listen, we want to show you at least nine things that this supernatural light *does* when it shines into the heart of man. And this will eliminate all of this easy-believe soul-winning and will establish once and for all that God operates on the principle of Divine Election. If our churches would come back to preaching the old foundation truths of the foreknowledge of God, the election and predestination of God, then we would see truth prevail as God would come among us in power once again. But apart from this, we would be as well off to just quit it all and go fishing! No wonder the Holy Ghost is absent from our meetings! God’s truth is absent! The work of the Holy Spirit has been set aside in the preaching of “another gospel.” We have insulted the Third Person of the Trinity. Some of you never heard this preached before, but you are hearing it now! May God get a hold on your soul!

First, *it exalts and ennoble the soul, for it puts it in communication with God.* Nothing will elevate and ennoble your soul like the Divine Presence coming inside of you. Suppose that President Nixon should call me and announce that he is coming to Greenville for a visit? I would really be elated that the President of the United States was coming to see old B. B. Caldwell! There would be all the news reporters gathering at my house, with their lights and all the glamour. But wait just a minute: The Great God of the Universe has come to see me and took up His abode in me. How far greater is He than the leader of this country! Talk about an uplifting for the soul—“**Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (Colossians 1:27)!

Secondly, *this light leads us to reflect upon the goodness of God.* Why did God elect you? Why did God visit you? Why did God save you? Can you answer that question? Why did God begin to reveal His truth and make you hunger and thirst for more? He didn't have to. God could have passed you by, for He owes you nothing but Hell and can pay you off at any moment. Oh, it is the goodness of God that brings the elect unto repentance (Romans 2:4)!

In the next place, *it gives us a glimpse of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.* Brother, if once you see that glory, you'll never be the same. Back yonder in the mountains when God saved me, I saw His glory and I have never gotten away from it. Oh, the glory of God in Christ! Men by nature don't see this. Once we saw no beauty, nothing to desire in Him, but God has made a difference between us and the men of this world. Now we see the unsurpassed beauty and glory of Christ. And we can not do anything to bring this change. It must come in the way of supernatural light.

Fourthly, *this light effectually influences the inclination and changes the nature of the soul.* Your soul is elevated or transformed; you are regenerated by the power of this light. You come alive spiritually! “**But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord**” (2 Corinthians 3:18). He predestinated you to be “**conformed to the image of his Son**” (Romans 8:29), and it is by this supernatural light that He brings it to pass. Oh, glory to God! It is an effectual life-changing light.

Then I would have you note, in the fifth place, *this light confirms the heart to the Gospel.* When you find church members so willing to accept all these perversions of the Gospel today, it is a bad sign. God's light will seal a connection between the sinner and the true Gospel of God concerning His Son.

Sixth, *it brings the soul to a saving close with Christ.* Every elect sinner, when this light shines on the inside, closes in with the Lord Jesus. He cannot live apart from Him. The enlightened sinner must get to Christ.

Next, *this light weans us from the world and raises our inclination to Heavenly things.* When once you have seen this Glory, it weans you from the world never to be content with mere earthly things again. When you are confirmed in the Gospel that glorifies the Lord in your salvation, never again can you be satisfied with this watered-down, make-believe, easy-believe stuff we hear from the average pulpit of today! You would be willing to walk a hundred miles to hear somebody preach the Gospel, rather than walk across the street to hear lies.

In the eighth place, I would tell you that *this supernatural light shows us that God is worthy to be obeyed and served.* Your soul will respond to the great God who has enlightened you. Do you remember reading of anyone in the Bible who had received this revelation and then turned back to the world? (Some had temporary illuminations, and fell away, but I am talking about people who truly saw the Glory of God in Christ!) They persevere. They go on, for there is something in this supernatural light that calls forth their obedience and perseverance.

Ninth, *this light draws the heart up into a sincere love for God.* The most touching incident following our Lord's resurrection is recorded in John 21, verses 15 through 17. Listen: “**So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea,**

Lord: thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.” The proof that you love Him is in the feeding of His lambs and His sheep. And if you love Him, you are going to love His people. Now I know that in the Greek there are two words for love. There is the word *philio*, which means affection, good will, benevolence or brotherly love; then you have the Greek word *agape*, which is a love that embraces the truth. It is possible for a religious person to have the *philio* love but not the *agape* love. And it is interesting to note that the first two times our Lord speaks of the *philio* or natural affection, but in His third inquiry He uses the *agape* or supernatural love. “Lovest thou me, embracing me in the truth?” That is the love we must have, the love that comes in this supernatural, divine, internal light infused within the soul in regeneration!

IV. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS SUPERNATURAL LIGHT, WHAT ARE WE TO DO? I fear that we will only have time to enumerate them for you tonight. Take them down and go home and study, and then sleep if you can! May God search our hearts tonight!

First, we are to *examine ourselves as to whether we have ever had this divine light let into our souls.* **“For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light”** (Psalm 36:9). It’s a fountain of life; it is the divine work of supernatural light, and without it we have no light but walk in the darkness of spiritual death.

Secondly, *let us examine ourselves to see whether we have been taught by the Spirit of God.* **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing”** (John 6:63). **“Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me,”** said our Lord (John 6:45). Have you been taught? If not, you are a stranger to this supernatural, saving light.

Thirdly, *let us examine ourselves whether the light of the Gospel of God has shined into us, giving us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* Peter never knew who the Lord Jesus was until this divine revelation came home to his soul; you and I won’t either. Oh, we may say that we “believe” and that we “trust” in the Saviour, but we don’t know Him and it is just mere words. I *believe* that there was an American president named Abraham Lincoln, but all I have is the record of history—I have no internal information, and I do not personally *know* Mr. Lincoln. “Oh, I believe in Jesus according to the Bible story.” But you don’t KNOW HIM. That comes only by this supernatural light poured into the soul from above.

Then *let us examine ourselves whether we have seen the Son and believed on Him and have that true faith of the Gospel.* There is always a conviction of the truth of Christ in the soul that knows what it is to experience this divine light. **“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day”** (John 6:40). You have to see the Son by divine revelation before you can believe on Him. This is not talking about a little vision or dream in your mind, but the revelation of Christ in your heart. And that kills all of this easy-believe soul-winning and shallow decisions of the present hour. No man can reveal Jesus to another man, and all of your tactics to persuade a man to *say* he believes on Jesus are just plain deception. This is the old proselytizing of ancient Judaism, and it is damning souls to an eternal Hell! Making proselytes that are twofold more the child of Hell—that’s all they are doing with these great “evangelistic campaigns.” To talk about a sinner believing on Jesus apart from this great revelation is to produce converts with merely historical belief, and that is all. There is nothing to it, no life and no power, no reality and no salvation. It’s a work in the flesh, and remember Paul told us that he did not know Jesus after the flesh but by the Spirit of God (2 Corinthians 5:16). This supernatural light was real to Paul!

Fifthly, *let us examine ourselves whether we be in the faith or not.* **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates”** (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Sixth place, *we must examine ourselves whether we have been born again or not. “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”* (John 3:3). We see His kingdom when this light of God comes streaming again and we are born from above, but not before.

Seventh, *let us examine ourselves whether we are on our way to Heaven or on the broad way to Hell*. How solemn! Pause; take your time. The outcome of this examination has to do with *eternity*.

In conclusion, the wisdom of the ages is to know God. We are to earnestly seek this spiritual light. If upon examination you doubt whether this has ever happened to you, why don't you SEEK it? We hear old Job crying, **“Oh that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat!”** (Job 23:3). There is nothing preventing you from seeking this light. “O God, this light has never shone into my soul! O God, I pray Thee to send it!” Why don't you begin to seek it? **“And when they had found him, they said unto him (Jesus), All men seek for thee”** (Mark 1:37), but all men were not seeking Him with their whole heart. Those who seek Him, according to His word, **“with all your heart”** (Jeremiah 29:13), are going to find Him. Notice in the Gospel of John, **“Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi (which is to say, being interpreted, Master), where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see”** (John 1:38-39). He *did* give you that invitation—if you want to know where Jesus lives, **“Come and see.”** He lives in the heart that has received this supernatural revelation of Jesus in the soul. Without this, we shall never have saving faith. We can never close in with Christ without this great revelation. May God bless your hearts as you think upon these things and turn your thoughts to God's Word! Amen.

B. B. Caldwell (1899-1976)

- *Date originally preached was about 1973. This is transcribed from tape and slightly abridged by Wylie Fulton. Hear some of Caldwell's sermons in MP3 format via the Internet at: www.sermonaudio.com/barnard*