

Series: John

Title: The Light of Life

Text: John 8: 13-20

Date: 8-1-2021

Place: SGBC, NJ

The Lord declared, “I am the light of the world.”

Gen 1: 1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2: And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3: And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

John 1: 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2: The same was in the beginning with God. 3: All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4: In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5: And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6: There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. 7: The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe. 8: He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9: *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Every man has a depraved nature. No spiritual light, only darkness. But even depraved man has his carnal light from Christ. Man is God’s creation. Christ is the light that lights every man that comes into the world making us moral creatures. We have the law of God written on our heart by nature, though it is defiled and corrupted by sin. But it is the light of Christ that makes us know right and wrong, accusing or excusing one another, though it be a selfish, judgmental, self-justifying understanding.

The Pharisee’s came to condemn the woman caught in adultery and to judge Christ that they might have to accuse him. But he spoke and brought their sin to their own conscience. They were convicted by their own conscience because of Christ the Light. It was not spiritual Light—proof is they went away. But the law is written on every man’s heart by nature so that he accuses or excuses and it is by Christ the Light.

Yet, in himself, Christ is the Light of God’s glory. He is that perfect “Light and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1: 5).

Hebrews 1: 3: Who being the brightness of [the Father's] glory, the express image of his person...

In those regenerated irresistibly by the Holy Spirit, Christ is the Light by which his people have spiritual Life and spiritual discernment, spiritual understanding to know him. Christ is the Light of Life.

John 8: 12...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Once Christ shines the Light in the heart of a sinner, our gracious Light never takes it away. Christ is the Light that saves his child from the darkness of spiritual ignorance. He saves his redeemed from our sins: he put away our sin before God's law by his death on the cross; and by the Light, Christ saves his child from the dominion of our sins within us.

Also, Christ is the Light that shines more and more unto the perfect day.

Proverbs 4:18: But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

When day breaks there is light. But the more the sun rises, the more we have light. Likewise, when Christ shines in the heart we have light. But the more Christ shines his Light the more we see that we are sinners. He increases and we decrease. We behold our sin in Christ's Light. He is the Light that reveals to us our darkness; he is the Light that makes us so more and more that Christ is our only Righteousness.

As a word of comfort, notice, Christ said, "*He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*" As we said Christ shall save us from the darkness of our sins in our daily walk. He continually makes us behold our sin in Christ's Light and by the Spirit gives us strength to mortify our sinful flesh.

But some will hear this and think of those times when a believer thinks himself to be in darkness. Does Christ mean we will never have dark days, dark seasons, even years of troubling darkness? We know by experience that there are dark times.

Yet, Christ's word gives us assurance. Some days the sun is behind the clouds. At times it is cloudy for long seasons. But on a cloudy day, though we cannot see the sun shine, the sun still shines. We have dark days, dark seasons. But Christ's Light makes us stay on him even in the darkness. Speaking of Christ his servant, God says to you believer,

Isaiah 50: 10: Who *is* among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of [Christ] his servant, that walketh *in* darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Speaking of the time when God shall permit satan to be loosed for a little season and things will be dark, hear what the prophet declared. When God sends a famine of spiritual bread and physical bread, Christ will make his child know more fully

that Christ alone is our Light. He is the one thing needful. Listen to the prophet's hope,

Habakkuk 3:17: Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls: 18: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19: The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

Christ promises those born of his Light shall "have the Light of Life." David experienced dark seasons. But he stayed on the LORD in faith, saying,

Psalms 18:28: For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Proverbs 20:27: The spirit of man *is* the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

John 6:63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I SPEAK unto you, *they* are SPIRIT, and *they* are LIFE.

Christ is our Light of Life. By his gospel, Christ shall speak into that new spirit Christ has given and quicken us. Thus Christ lights our candle and enlightens our darkness. It is not a matter of what is happening around us but what Christ does in the new spirit.

But the Pharisee's were sitting in the congregation listening and looking for something for which to accuse Christ. They heard no good news in Christ's word.

John 8: 13: The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

Now, Christ is the Light of the world. He is God in human flesh. These men would not have natural life without him. They would not have a mind without him—"in him we move and live and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Christ lights every man that comes into the world even those who are in complete spiritual darkness as these men were. Christ could have taken their light and life and they would have fallen dead as a stone. Oh what darkness! What darkness! To say to the living God—"Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true!"

But let me ask you who believe on him, why do you know his record is true? You believe by the free and sovereign electing, redeeming, regenerating grace of God. Christ has shined in your heart to give you the Light of life.

2 Corinthians 4: 6: 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.

1 John 5: 10: He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

John 8: 14: Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Christ is THE Truth, the Word made flesh. Christ said, "*My record is true: because I know when I came and wither I go.*" Christ is the witness. He came from God the Father. The Lord Jesus is God who was with the Father in eternity. The Father sent him to bear witness of who God is and how God saves. Christ is the Son of God come in human flesh.

The Son of God came to redeem all who the Father chose and gave to him. He came to glorify his Father. Christ's purpose was to justify his people from our sins and reveal the righteousness of God in doing so.

When he finished the work—accomplishing our Redemption—Christ went back to God his Father. Christ knew he would accomplish the work then return to the Father. He said, "*Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go.*" Christ knew. He knew who he was, whose he was, what he came to do, for whom he came to do it, that he would accomplish it then return to the Father.

Sinners in darkness have no spiritual knowledge of God. Therefore they have no identity. We hear sinners speak of trying to find themselves. All a sinner's life he runs here then there and is never settled. When trouble comes he is tossed to and fro. He has no identity and therefore no anchor.

Yet, those in whom Christ shines the Light of Life know who God is and we know who we are. By Christ, the Light *we know whence we came*. In our flesh we came from Adam—ruined sinners. We know we must have the Lord Jesus to save us. Christ's Light has made us know we need Christ to be the Author and Finisher of faith.

But by Christ's Light we also know God the Father chose us in Christ in eternity. His people have always been "of the Father." "Of God are ye in Christ Jesus"—that was God's gracious election of his people in eternity not based on anything in us. When the Son of God came down and took flesh we were in him. We know

from whence we are because we know from whence Christ is. How do we know? Christ the Light has shined in our hearts to give us the Light of Life—“the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.”

We know whither we go. When Christ died, we died—“I am crucified with Christ.” And when Christ went back to the Father, we went back to the Father.

Ephesians 2: 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6: And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: 7: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Having Christ the Light—we say with Paul, “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim 1: 12)

Therefore, having Christ our Light we have an anchor of the soul—both sure and steadfast—our hope has entered into the very presence of God where Christ sits—where we sit in Christ (Heb 6: 19). Christ keeps his child having this Light of Life!

However, until Christ shines in the heart, sinners are only darkness. Christ said,

John 8: 14...but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. 15: Ye judge after the flesh;

Being in spiritual darkness without Christ the Light of life their judgment—their discernment—was their five carnal senses. So it is with all sinners in this world, religious or irreligious.

There stood the Light of the world. But they only saw a man. They heard the incarnate Word speak. Yet, they only heard a man. And they called him a liar. Christ said,

John 8: 15:...I judge no man. [after the flesh]

Christ looks on the heart. He knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. Our omniscient Savior knows if the motive is sin or if it is in faith he has given. He knows if the thought is sin or if it is pure in the new spirit he has given his child.

By Christ’s Light he gives spiritual discernment. He gives us Light whereby we discern in spirit and in truth.

2 Corinthians 5: 15: For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, [with spiritual discernment] that if one died for all, then were all dead:

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 16: Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

Sinners in darkness are dead spiritually therefore they can only see with natural sight. They can only “*judge after the flesh.*” Therefore they “glory in appearance, and not in heart” (2 Cor 5:12) The lust of the eyes is not only what men see but the lust to be seen of men. They judge by the seeing eye and hearing ear.

When Christ shines his Light we discern with spiritual judgment. Then we behold that Christ blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us. Therefore, all who believe on Christ are complete in him. We know that about ourselves by faith and we remember that about our brethren.

True worship, true godliness, is in spirit and has no confidence in the flesh. A true Jew is one born of God and brought to believe on Christ in spirit.

Romans 2: 28: For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Having this spiritual judgment by Christ the Light, we regard brethren as righteous in Christ by Christ’s righteousness. We do not doubt brethren. We trust they are one with Christ and Christ justified them. Therefore, we judge that it is just to be merciful, to love one another and help each other behold Christ the Light.

We cease looking upon the fleshly, outward differences. We judge not after the flesh. We know no man after the flesh. Christ’s Light has made us,

Colossians 3: 10:...put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

But the Pharisee’s in our text were the concision. Their religion was outward only. They were proud in their sinful heart. They judged after the flesh being puffed up by their knowledge and their good works.

Christ’s Light makes us behold our own selves in Christ’s light so that we esteem ourselves as vile. His Light makes us esteem Christ as our All. Christ’s Light makes us remember of our brethren that Christ is in all. Therefore, the Light of Christ makes us use spiritual discernment, esteeming our brethren better than ourselves.

The more the light of Christ shines into our hearts the more we see this building—this sinful flesh—in which we live is only good to be torn down and return to the dust. Christ is our only Righteousness. That Light humbles. That Light never makes us see ourselves as loving as we ought. That Light makes us say, *“I want to know him...I want to be found in Christ’s Righteousness alone”*

Amen!