

## In Him Was Life and Light

### John 1:4-5

#### INTRODUCTION

Today is our second sermon in the book of John. Last week we covered the truth that Jesus Christ is the Word of God. John wanted to tell us that the one who spoke creation into existence in Genesis 1 is The Word in John 1. We know Him as The Lord Jesus Christ.

In Chapter **1:1-18** John writes a long introduction in which He introduces key words that are central teaching topics in the rest of this gospel. Theme words introduced today which will be expounded upon in the rest of this gospel are LIFE, LIGHT, and DARKNESS.

#### READING THE TEXT

##### John 1:4-5

*<sup>4</sup> In him was **life**, and the **life** was the **light** of men. <sup>5</sup> The **light** shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** has not overcome it.*

#### PREACHING THE TEXT

### LIFE

##### John 1:4-5

*<sup>4</sup> In him was life,*

the word “Life” appears 36 times in the gospel of John, far more than any other New Testament book. It is one of John’s most important themes. The preceding verses say that *“the Word was with God”* and *“was God,”* and that *“all things were made through him” 1:1-3.*

The second person of the Trinity, The Word, is the source of all life in the universe. Not only does he possess life. but **life itself is found in him and comes through him.** Jesus said,

### **John 5:26**

***“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself”***

All life is in Christ, including physical and biological life, but John is especially referring to spiritual life. The expression that he often uses is ***“eternal life.”***

**John 3:16** proclaims that God loved the world and sent His Son, ***“that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”***

If you want to find eternal life come to The Son of God. If you are afraid of perishing come to the Son of God.

### **QUALITY AND QUANTITY**

Jesus Christ will bring life into your heart and soul.

### **Quality of His Life**

First let's think about the *quality* of life that Jesus Christ brings into your life and mine. Before He brought me life, my spirit was dead. My soul was filled with vile images and none of them were life giving so I sought more and more vile images thinking different images might bring life and meaning. But they all failed. Perhaps sports, perhaps intimate relationships, perhaps money would bring life. So I pursued these things wholeheartedly and still felt empty and dead inside.

And then one day Jesus Christ The Word of God spoke into my heart and said; LET THERE BE LIFE! And the quality of my life was forever changed. I continually prove I am not perfect.

But day by day God is transforming me so that I love more, forgive faster, yield to idols less often and rely on His power and Spirit more. Before Christ I was headed for bad relationships, addictions, the occult and all kinds of things that would have destroyed me in every way.

### **John 10:10 (ESV)**

***<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.***

If you are here today or listening on the web, examine your life. Is there true joy and fulfillment in your soul? Are you aching for more meaning in your life. If you are come to Jesus. Call out to Him. He will give you life and it will be so much better than what you have now. He may call you into difficult situations for His name sake and glory. But you will have a purpose and unending joy no matter what difficulties you face.

### **The Quantity (Duration) of Life From Him**

And now let's explore the quantity of life. At some point in time The Son of God spoke into your heart and said; *"let there be life."* When He created life inside your spirit and soul you were born from above. Because of this life given to your spirit and soul, 1000 years from now you will still be alive in His glorious presence.

A million years from now, or even a billion years from now your soul and spirit will exist in a glorified body; all because The Son of God said: "let there be life!" When he says; "let there be life" nothing can take that life from His glorious hand.

## **LIGHT**

*verse 4 continued* ***and the life was the light of men.***

The second theme word that John introduces here is the word ***light***. The life that is in The Word of God is what bring light. The glory of God and the eternal life of God is what brings light. "You mean I can live forever and have the wrath of God put aside for me in Jesus Christ?!" That life is what shed light and helps us see things as they really are.

### **1. Light Reveals**

Light does several things in a practical and spiritual sense. The first things that light does is **to reveal**. When you first go into a totally dark room you can not see the condition of the room until you hit the lights. It could be messy. It could be clean.

Someone could have ransacked the room and stolen everything but you will never know the condition of the room until someone turns on the light.

Our soul was totally ransacked by satan but no one had a light powerful enough to shine in our hearts in such a way that we could actually see our true condition. Before Jesus turned on the lights we made excuses for everything we did. We hid from God and from his people because we did not want to look at the true condition of our life.

But one day The Word of God said “let there be light” in our soul and we were confronted with the reality of our sin and addictions and lies and lack of love. And the The Son of God cleaned up our heart and gave us His life.

## **2. Light Warms**

The next thing the light of God does is to thaw out icy hearts. The light of Jesus revealed the truth of our condition, and then the light of God warmed up our heart toward God and others. A love came into our hearts miraculously from God so that we called God Father and call one another brother and sister.

### **John 12:46 (ESV)**

***<sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.***

## **STORY: HARRY IRNSIDE OUTDOOR EVENT**

The evangelist Harry Ironside was once preaching outdoors in San Francisco when a famous atheist approached and handed him a card. It read, “*Sir, I challenge you to debate with me the question, ‘Agnosticism versus Christianity’ in the Academy of Science Hall next Sunday afternoon at four o’clock.*” Ironside read the card aloud and replied:

*I am very much interested in this challenge... Therefore I will be glad to agree to this debate on the following conditions, namely, in order to prove that Mr.\_\_\_\_\_ has something worth fighting for and worth debating about, he will promise to bring with him*

*to the hall next Sunday two people(:)...one man who was for years what we commonly call a “down and outer”...a man who for years was under the power of evil habits from which he could not deliver himself, but who on some occasion...heard the glorification of agnosticism and his denunciation of the Bible and Christianity, and whose heart and mind as he listened to such an address were so deeply stirred that he went away from that meeting saying, “Henceforth, I too am an agnostic!” And as a result of imbibing that particular philosophy found that a new power had come into his life. the sins he once loved, he now hates, and righteousness and goodness are now the ideals of his life...all because he is agnostic.*

Ironside likewise asked the atheist to bring a woman who had similarly been delivered from corrupt living by the power of unbelief.

Then Ironside turned to his side of the bargain. “I will bring with me at the very least 100 men and women who for years lived in just such sinful degradation as I have tried to depict, but who have been gloriously saved through believing the gospel which you ridicule. I will have these men and women with me on the platform as witnesses to the miraculous saving power of Jesus Christ and as present-day proof of the truth of the Bible.” At this, the atheist walked away, for while Ironside could easily produce a hundred men and women transformed by the Light of Jesus Christ, the secular debater could not provide even one who had been changed for the better by his philosophy. Ironside’s point was not that no one can be ethical as an unbeliever, but rather that the light of Christ possesses a life-transforming power that atheism does not.

-----end of story-----

### **3. Light Guides**

The next things that the light of Jesus provides is guidance. He shines the light on the path that we are to take. Anytime you have a decision to make know the He will guide you.

**Psalm 119:105 (ESV)**

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a light to my path.

**John 8:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the **light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**DARKNESS**

The next theme introduced in verse 5 is *DARKNESS*.

***John 1:<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

Let's look at 2 aspects of darkness; spiritual blindness and spiritual warfare.

**1. Darkness = Spiritual Blindness**

**LIGHT SHINES IN DARKNESS**

The light of the world Jesus Christ came to earth. He shined His brilliant light into a dark world. Some received the gift of faith and believed. Their hearts were changed, illuminated by the grace and truth and power of Jesus Christ.

But there were some who so loved the darkness that they cursed the light. Some wanted power, money, fame and ungodly living instead of The Son of God. So they tried to shut Him up. He was shining into the darkness of their lives and exposing their evil. Rather than repenting they killed him.

It is the same today. People live in darkness. They demand the right to do what is evil and call it tolerance. They marginalize or persecute those who shine the light of Jesus.

Jesus told us not to be surprised if people hate you. They hated Him first. And He is the Son of God! They hate Him because they are exposed by His light. They hate you because you remind them of Jesus. **John 3:19**

***(ESV) <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.***

If people tell you that the world or the human race is basically good, remind them what it did to Jesus. He came without any sin, healing and teaching about how people can have peace with God. He was a light shining in the darkness. But for that very reason the world hated him.

But remember this, people who are broken and humble, even if they had a terrible past will respond to grace and love without strings. Some people are absolutely shocked that Jesus Christ love them despite their life. Others who are arrogant will marginalize Jesus and you.

## **2. Darkness = Spiritual Warfare**

There is also the sense that if you try to take ground for Jesus the demonic forces of darkness are going to make war against you.

Jesus asked His disciples about His true identity. Peter spoke up and said; ***“you are The Son of the Living God.” ....***

### **Matthew 16:17-19**

***<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah!***

***For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.***

***<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and***

***the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the***

***kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in***

***heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”***

**WHY IS HE BLESSED?**

Peter and anyone is blessed when they get the truth revealed to their heart by The Father. List to one of the benefits of having the truth revealed to our hearts;

**THE GATES OF HELL CANNOT PREVAIL**

One of the benefits is that the gates of hell cannot prevail. The gates of hell can not open up and swallow you. And demons can not jump out of the gates of hell and attack you and prevail...not if you are getting your stuff from God.

## WHATEVER YOU BIND

The last in verse 19 is that you bind things on earth that are bound in the heavenlies. So when the darkness encroaches into your life, you can get your stuff from God and ask for spiritual discernment. You can know that the gates of hell cannot prevail. **1 John 4:1 says greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world**

And then you can pray that God will remove the influence that Satan and the gates of hell are having on your mind or heart or thinking or temptations, and God will take care of those demonic assignments in the unseen world.

### **John 12:46 (ESV)**

<sup>46</sup> ***I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may **not** remain in darkness.***

## SUMMARY

Jesus brings Life and Light and dispels darkness. Who is Jesus to you? Who do you say He is? If you believe He is the Son of God he will expose and then drive out the darkness in you heart and He will give you life.

## TAKING IT HOME

1. What does the light of Jesus reveal about the condition of your soul? Has it been ransacked by the world and the devil?
2. If so, will you let Jesus clean up and reorder your life today?
3. Is the light of God's word growing you?
4. If not, will you commit to walk toward the light and take opportunities to grow in the word and in your prayer life today.