

His Light And Our Darkness

1 John 1:5-7

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. (1 John 1:1-4 (ESV))

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7 (ESV))

A reminder from the message last week . . . as this Book opens, the Apostle John begins by declaring to us who the Lord Jesus is, that He is the “Word of Life”, the same “Word” that “spoke” all the worlds into existence. And it is that same all-powerful “speaking Voice of God” that still, day to day, pours forth speech into all the world declaring who God is and calling men and women to Himself.

And as we learned from the Gospel of John chapter 1 verse 14, this “Speaking Voice of God”, God the Son, the Lord Jesus came down to be with us in the “flesh” and to dwell among us for a season.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
(John 1:1-5, 14 (ESV))

Jesus came to us to do as the Prophet Isaiah had prophesied that He would, declaring that,

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19 (ESV))

This “speaking Voice of God”, the Lord Jesus, came as the “Word of Life” to walk among men and to proclaim a clear and plain message to all of the people of the earth,

saying that He alone is the “Way, the Truth and the Life”, and that no one can come to God the Father except through Him.

In those precious words of John 14:6, Jesus told us a mystery, a truth that no other person is able to say. He told us that He not only knows the way, the truth and the life, and how we are able to receive it, but that He Himself actually “is” the Way, the Truth and the Life. And that there is no other pathway to the Father, and no other pathway to salvation, and no other pathway to heaven, except through Him.

That is the reason why the words of 1 John 5 are so emphatic,

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (1 John 5:11-12 (NASB))

Folks, there are a lot of well-meaning people out there who do not believe these words. They believe and proclaim to anyone who will listen that there are other ways of getting to God and to heaven, that most all religions lead to the same end. But that is not so! Not so! Not so! And woe be unto them who say such things. And woe be unto anyone who would follow after their foolish ways.

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Jesus really is the only “Way, the Truth and the Life”. That is the message He came to bring to us, and that is the message that the Apostle John is declaring to us in these words. Listen again!

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7 (ESV))

This message that Jesus brings begins by telling us that “God is light and in Him there is no darkness”. And this word “light” has meaning and significance like no other, especially when used as it is here in this context of who God is. Light is part of the essence of His “divine glory”.

One Bible Commentator tells us that,

“In describing God as light, John is referring to His absolute moral purity and omniscience. In other words, there is no moral defect, nor is there a lack of

knowledge in God. John's point seems to be that the person and work of Christ, which is what is announced in the gospel message, is the "light" that brings us into fellowship with God, who is the light. This is consistent with what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:3–6: "... For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

"In Psalm 119:05, where we are told, "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path", God's Word is described as light. But that is especially so of the "gospel". The Gospel is the "light" that reveals God in His fullness in His Son and brings us into fellowship with Him."

"John's description of God as light in whom there is no darkness at all undergirds the fact of His utter differentness and separateness from us, His fallen creatures who exist in darkness. The critical link for fellowship between creatures of darkness and a Creator who exists in absolute light is the "light who came into the world", the incarnate Son of God, the Lord Jesus. Without Christ, we remain in a state of darkness and alienated from the life of God."

May I add a thought to this commentator's words . . . imagine living your entire life where there is no light of any kind. Neither you, nor anyone else can see anyone or anything so as to know what people and things look like. You cannot learn much, if anything at all, because the darkness conceals critical information about other people and about things.

The special kind of "darkness" that God is speaking about here in our scripture passage is a kind of spiritual metaphor for that condition. This "darkness" that God is describing here is a form of "blindness" within men's souls, a "darkness" that is deep and difficult and evil beyond human knowledge and understanding. And unfortunately for us, this "darkness", this "blindness" is a condition of soul that no person has a choice about. It comes to us by nature, born into each of us at birth. And there are no exceptions. Every person since Adam and Eve, except the Lord Jesus, has been born into this "darkness".

Folks, please bear with me because I feel a need to say these words again. . . . In a very real and literal sense, there truly is a mysterious kind of "darkness" that exists all round about us in this world we live in, a strange and inexplicable kind of darkness, a darkness that the ordinary mind can't even begin to perceive is present. And this darkness is pervasive, covering over and enshrouding the minds, the souls, the spirits of all the people and all the activities that exist upon the earth. And unlike the nighttime

kind of darkness that we are accustomed to, this special “darkness” actually has a nature and a personality all its own, a nature that seeks to reach into, and to invade and to dominate and to control everything that takes place within every heart and every soul that resides within that “darkness”, the things people think, the things they say and the things they do. And the nature of that “darkness” is evil, so very evil, evil beyond measure, insidious, demanding and controlling.

But again strangely, though this darkness is so pervasive and has such dominance and control, its presence seems to go almost completely unnoticed by its residents, utterly imperceptible to their ordinary senses.

My thoughts go to the animals that are described as being “nocturnal”. Their eyes are so especially suited to seeing within the darkness that they can actually see far better in the darkness than they can in the light. Darkness is their “normal”. It’s said also that the light actually “hurts” their eyes and because of that, they only come out after darkness falls.

And perhaps the same kind of explanation can be given regarding ordinary people as we live and move and have our being within this “special kind of darkness” that we are speaking about here today, that we have become so accustomed to this special “darkness”, the “light” hurts our eyes, causing us to try to stay away from it. Perhaps that is the reason why so many of the pews sit empty in our churches each Sunday.

In simple terms, the “strange darkness” of this world has become our “normal”, and because it is our “normal”, we don’t even realize that it is here, permeating everything that exists. And sadly, most all of the people of this world will live their whole lives and then die never knowing that their entire life existence has been lived within a sea of darkness.

But how and why can all this be so? From these scriptures, we know that the change took place almost immediately after man first took his place in this world. In the very beginning, there was “light”, perfect “light”, nothing but light, and all things existed within that “light”. There was no form of “darkness” at all except for the nighttime darkness, which was only for a few hours each day, after which light would faithfully return to dispel even that darkness.

But then the “master of real darkness”, satan, came along with his beguiling ways. And Adam and Eve chose to follow after him into his darkness. It was from that beginning that men then became what these scriptures call “sons of disobedience”. “Sons of disobedience”! And it was with that disobedience that real “darkness”, the kind of

“darkness” spoken about here in our scripture passage was born into the souls of men. And an “ever-present darkness” descended upon the earth and into the souls of men . . . and everything changed. Everything changed! Light was no longer present in the souls of men, and darkness began to prevail!

And as darkness descended and took control over the minds of men, they began to devise their own explanations for their condition and for the conditions around them. In particular, mankind chose the pathway of intellect and human logic for all their understanding, describing their behaviors as “psychological problems” instead of sin.

Intellect and human logic are among the few things that are visible within that “ever-present darkness”. And with intellect and human logic, men were able to believe and to “buy into” the concept that everything within their dark world was only “natural”, not “spiritual”, but natural and physical, providing for satan and his demonic kingdom a perfect hiding place. They now hide “in plain view” within the recesses of the “ever present darkness”. And just as they did with Adam and Eve, they continue to beguile hapless souls and to lead them astray.

And unfortunately for the souls of men, that sort of perception and rational thinking that sees nothing beyond the “natural”, nothing existing outside of their ordinary senses, provides for a life experience that is relatively simple, no eternal accountability and no eternal consequences.

Like the proverbial frog who comfortably lives out his final moments as the water in the pot warms up, so also this “dark” understanding provided within the ever-present darkness, provides men a kind of comfort as they wile away their lives in a sea of sinfulness.

Jesus spoke about that in John 3 when He said that “men love darkness”! Listen to these words in John 3!

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. (John 3:19-20 (NASB))

Sinful men love the “darkness”. But thanks be to God, He is loving and merciful. He did not leave us to flounder and suffer eternally in that “ever-present darkness”. He did as these words tell us. He sent a “light” into our dark world, the Lord Jesus. He is the “light of the world” in whom there is no darkness. In John 8, Jesus said

12 . . . "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12 (NASB))

Jesus is that "ever-present light" that dispels the "ever-present darkness". And here in this message that John is declaring to us, Jesus has brought His precious light to us. And His light is ours if we want it. But the message clearly declares to us that His light will only be ours if we reach out and receive it. Listen carefully to these words!

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7 (ESV))

Here, God tells that there is a response that is required of us. He tells us that our response must be to turn from living within and walking within that darkness and to begin walking in His light. Verse 6,

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7 (ESV))

It's time to close for today, but the Lord willing, we'll continue with this message next week and hear what God means by His call for us to "walk in the light". Listen!

7 if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7 (ESV))

Praise the Lord!