

The Light of the world

John 1:1-13

Title: The Light of the World

Date: Dec 22, 2024

Text: John 1:1-13

John 1:1–13 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The goal of John's gospel

John 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Five essential truths about Jesus Christ:

1. He is eternal _____.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

“In the beginning”

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

“was” - Imperfect tense - This tense emphasizes a continual state of being in the past.

Why is this important?

“the Word”

John took the OT concepts of God's spoken word in Genesis 1 and applied them to Jesus.

- God's Word in Gen. 1 creates life and so Jesus (the Word) gives spiritual life.

- According to Isaiah 55:1, God's Word never returns

void and Jesus (the word) completely accomplished the Father's will.

How do we know that "the Word" is Jesus?

John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

and the Word was **WITH** God,

In John 17:5 - Jesus prayed - "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

and the Word **WAS** God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

"He" - A masculine pronoun introducing the Word as a man

2. He is the _____.

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Jesus WAS the eternal Word, but creation “came into existence.”

The Father initiated creation but Jesus was the direct agent.

Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

3. He is the _____.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

“life” - Not [bios] physical life but [zoe] spiritual life

“In Him” - [zoe] life if found “In Him” not through Him like creation in verse 3

“the Light of men”

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

a. He shines into _____.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

"comprehend"

It can mean to understand but in this context it is best to translate it "overpower" or to "overcome."

ESV - "overcome" -

LSB (Legacy Standard Bible) - "overtake"

Light overpowers darkness but darkness cannot overpower light.

b. He had a _____.

6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

c. He _____.

9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

“true Light”

“enlightens every man”

This has a two-fold meaning:

1. It refers back to Jesus as the Creator (General revelation)

“every man”

2. Jesus has spoken all that He wants to say.

Hebrews 1:1-2 - God has given us His final word through His Son.

4. He is _____.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

The word **“world”** here has two different meanings:

“in the world” - Planet earth

“and the world” - Human beings

“His own” - Jews

5. He is _____.

12 **But** as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

“as many as” -

“received” is explained by - **“believe”**

“received” - to grasp or take hold of

“His name”

Three scenarios that men seek to save themselves:

“not of blood (bloods)” -

“nor of the will of the flesh” -

“nor of the will of man”

“but of God”

Ephesians 2:8–9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Discussion guide

1. What new insight have you received about Jesus Christ as a result of today's sermon?
2. John's main point is that Jesus is eternal God. Why is that so important to Christianity?
3. Contemplate the relationship between light and darkness. How many insights apply to Jesus and darkness?
4. What connection is there between Jesus as the Word of the NT and the Word in the OT, especially at creation?
5. The Trinity is a mystery we cannot explain. What other doctrines do we have to believe on faith apart from human logic?

ANSWERS - God, Creator, Light, Darkness, witness, enlightens, rejected, received