

CP - 12/17/23

## John 1:5–13 - The Light of the World

### Sermon Outline

#### Introduction to John

- John's Prologue (1:1–18)
  - Grand foyer to the architectural wonder of the gospel
  - Introduces major themes (life, light, witness, true, world, glory, truth)
- Theme of the book: John 20:30–31
- The book begins with the phrase, "In the beginning."
  - Not a secondary plan
  - The "genesis of the new creation"
  - Starts with God
- Last Week we studied the Word
- This week— "The Light" (6 times)
  - Think about light
  - Not static but a radiant moving energy
  - Moves at 186,000 miles a second
  - A wave hits the retina; photoreceptors send signals; brain turns into images
  - A force illuminates our eyes to see.
  - Things become visible (creation, people, etc)
- Jesus, the true light, gives light to all men.
  - In Christ, we see fully who God is and who we are.
  - Tim Keller: *"The gospel is this: we are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we even dared to believe, yet at the same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we even dared to hope!"*

#### I. The true light overcomes the darkness. (1:5)

- This statement sums up the gospel of John.
- The light has come and shone in the darkness.
- They attempted to put the light out but couldn't overcome the light.
- **Darkness has never and will never overcome the light of Christ.**

#### II. The messenger of the true light (1:6–8)

- John the Baptist
  - "a man sent from God"
    - Prophesied (Isaiah 40:3)
    - Miraculous birth - points to the pre-incarnate work
  - "for a witness"
    - His reason of existence was to give witness or evidence about the light
    - He used his breath to shout.

- “that all might believed though him”
  - Him = John
  - Give evidence about the light not to be right but for people to believe
  - Look at his message and intention (John 1:19–36, 3:22–36)
- “He was not the light”
- Application: John is an example for all believers.
  - It ain’t about us, y’all; it’s about the light.
  - Acts 1:8 - “witness”

### III. The true light has come. (1:9–10a)

- “true light”
  - Not counterfeit
  - Full revelation
  - Light, bread, water, life (symbols throughout John to describe Jesus)
  - Real illumination and full disclosure
  - The incomprehensible became understandable.
  - The untouchable became touchable.
- “world”
  - “Kosmos” - different overtones
    - Positive - “God so loved the world” (John 3:16)
    - Neutral - a big place (physical earth)
    - Negative - world that didn’t recognize him
      - The created order of human in rebellion against its makers
      - (1:10; 7:7; 14:17, 22, 27, 30; 15:18–19; 16:8, 20, 23; 17:6, 9, 14)
      - **John 3:16 — “For God so loved the world” is not an endorsement of the world, but a testimony to the character of God.**
      - **God’s love for the world is remarkable, not because of how big the world is but how bad it is.**
      - For John, the world had no believers. (John 15:19)
      - We are called out of the world to believe.

### IV. The true light shines on all men. (1:9-13)

- The light came into the world, shone on all men, created two distinctions.
- No man can escape it.
- The two distinctions are those who reject it and those who receive it.
  - The light unrecognized and unwelcome (1:10–11)
    - “did not know him”
    - “did not receive him” (Jews)
    - John Phillips quote

- The light received and trusted (1:12–13)
  - “But ...” - Darkness does not overcome!
  - “to all who did receive him” (“take hold of”)
  - “who believed in his name” (the totality of His character, all that he is and has been revealed to be)
  - “he gave the right to become children of God”

**\*\*\*How do we become children of God?**

- “not of blood” (race/ethnicity)
- “nor of the will of the flesh” (own work)
- “nor of the will of man” (parents)

**\*\*\*How then do we become children of God?**

- Born of the will of God
- Born of the Spirit
- Regeneration - God brings a person to new life
- Infant receives no glory for being born, nor does a man receive any glory for being born again.
- Though man must receive and believe in order to be saved, salvation is a sovereign act of God.
- Which one comes first?
  - We experience birth, then we cry.
  - Here is the point: In a world that loves darkness, the light came that we can become children of God

**\*\*\*By whose authority do you claim to be a child of God?**

**Small Group Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Bible passage and message? What stood out to you?
2. How does John the Baptist serve as an example for all believers, both in how he viewed himself and his ministry? Discuss as a group. (Also see John 1:19–34 and 3:22–30.)
3. What does John mean by calling Jesus “the true light?” What specific areas in who Jesus is and what He did/does show him to be the true light? List some areas and discuss.
4. What are the two distinctive groups in John 1:10–13? Discuss the characteristics of each group. How do we become children of God and on whose authority? Discuss.