

John 1:4-13

Read the verses

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.

Many themes run through this passage. We will obviously not have the time to run through all of them. There is one that is found throughout this passage and is one of the dominant themes of the Gospel of John—Light.

If your translation is like mine, light is capitalized. For you gen Xers and millennials, that is uppercase. This indicates a personification. The Word is the Light. The Word is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, Son of God is the Light. The Word was life. The Word was the Light of life.

Light and life are used together in John. One goes with the other. I want to focus this morning on just the one—light. Realizing the danger of stating generalities of light, I want to focus on the specifics that we find in this passage as it relates to light. I want to look at what this passage has to say about light.

Before we go there, I thought it would be interesting to see what a dictionary definition of light is. I went to a website called dictionary.com. It would seem that what we would find is something simple as far as definition like, "Light is the absence of darkness."

There are about 23 different definitions there as to what light is as far as it being used as a noun.

The definition relating to physics is what interest me.

Physics.

*Also called luminous energy, radiant energy. electromagnetic radiation to which the organs of sight react, ranging in wavelength from about 400 to 700 nm and propagated at a speed of 186,282 mi./sec (299,972 km/sec),

*considered variously as a wave, corpuscular, or quantum phenomenon.

*a similar form of radiant energy that does not affect the retina, as ultraviolet or infrared rays.

Light is the result of energy. It is luminous energy. It is radiant energy. Don't you find that fascinating? Does that not describe our Lord?

So in light, there is power. So also, in the Light of Jesus Christ, there is power. The Word is Light. The Word is power. The Light therefore, which is another name for the Word and Jesus Christ has power.

What power does Christ give as the Light?

The Power of Light

The Power of Light Displayed for He Gives life

The phrase the life was the Light is the same grammatically as the phrase The Word was God. As God the Father and God the Son share in the same essence as God, so also does life and Light share the same essence. The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God is nothing more than the radiating, revealing life of God that shines in our hearts to give us life, which in terms of the Gospel of John is eternal life.

Eternal life consists of two realms. It consists of the here and now. In this Jesus gives us abundant life, a purposeful life, and a life with meaning and fulfillment. As physical light is energy that transfers that energy to other living beings, so also Christ is light transferring His energy to other beings through faith.

Eternal life is simply God's life in us through the relationship we have with Him in Jesus Christ.

Eternal life is also hereafter in that it is life after this life in the place the Bible calls heaven.

I apologize for the persons who tell you, "Give your life to Jesus Christ so that you may be prepared to die." That's half of the truth. The other half is give your life to Jesus Christ so that you may be prepared to live.

The Power of Light Displayed for He Conquers darkness

What does John mean by darkness? There are multiple answers to that question. First, darkness means the darkness of sin.

Proverbs 4:19 - *The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they ^[a]stumble.*

Isa. 5:20 - *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who ^[a]substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;*

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Second darkness means Satan's kingdom that is the domain of darkness

Col 1:13 - *^[a]For He rescued us from the ^[b]domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of ^[c]His beloved Son,*

Ephesians 6:12 - *For our struggle is not against ^[a]flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

The darkness did not comprehend the Light. It is better translated as overcome. It's not that darkness did not understand the Light. Satan understands Jesus very well. There is much Biblical evidence to point that out. In fact, the demons not only know truth, but they believe it, not believe in it, but believe it. They know it to be true. James 2:19 - "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe and shudder."

The darkness cannot overcome the Light. Satan will never conquer Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34 - *And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.*

Luke 4:34 - ³³ *In the synagogue there was a man [u]possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Let us alone! [u]What business do we have with each other, Jesus [u]of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of the people, he came out of him without doing him any harm. ³*

It seems that in our day, the forces of darkness is driving the Light to a place of dimness.

I read this week of some of the facts about the year 2016. The source of this is a secular publication. It states that the year 2016 will be remembered as a year of suffering for Christians. I don't have the numbers. The number of people who died for the faith in 2016 is greater than the number who died for the faith in the years of the 20th Century combined.

It would seem that would drive the Light to a place of dim insignificance. However, in those areas where persecution is the greatest, we find the Church growing the fastest. Syria is one where thousands upon thousands have come to faith. A nation that is seeing the Church grow the fastest is Iran.

The Power of Light is Displayed in that He Affects our witness

Such is the testimony of John the Baptist.

John came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. Through the testimony of John that Jesus is the light, many may believe.

The power of the Light enabled John to be an effective witness.

Paul likens us to shining stars, and the word shine means to reflect. The scientific term is albedo. It's a measurement of how much sunlight a celestial body reflects. The planet Venus, for example, has the highest albedo at .65. In other words, 65 percent of the light that hits Venus is reflected. Depending on where it's at in its orbit, the almost-a-planet Pluto has an albedo ranging from .49 to .66. Our night-light, the moon, has an albedo of .07. Only seven percent of sunlight is reflected, yet it lights our way on cloudless nights.

In a similar sense, each of us has a spiritual albedo. The goal? One hundred percent reflectivity. We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord. You cannot produce light. You can only reflect it.

The Power of Light is Displayed in that He Reveals the way of truth

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.

Your Word have I hid in my heart so that I might not sin against God.

The written Word of God testifying to the Living Word of God is a powerful light for us to reveal the way of truth.

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.

Where the Light of Christ reflects off individuals, there is power in that life. Where the Light of Jesus Christ reflects off of churches, there is power in that church.

One other thing needs to be noted about light. It is power that produces the light. Light also produces power in that which absorbs the light.

That makes sense in the spiritual realm of life. Where there is one living in sin, or one who is a believer who has been drawn into sin, there is a sense of depression, and a sense of having no energy. When we choose to sin, we choose to step away from the Light of Jesus Christ. As we step away, we miss the spiritual energy that He gives.

The same way is true for a church. Where there is a sense of no energy in a church, we have to ask, "Has the church stepped out of the Light of Christ?"

It is time for believers and for churches to step back into the Light. Live in the Light. Radiate the light for all to see. We live in a dark world that needs to see His Light.

Step into the Light.

Be drawn to the Light of Jesus so you may find life.