



Christmas Part 1

John 1:1-13

Talking Points:

I. Light Revealed (vv. 1-5)

II. The Light Reflected (vv. 6-9)

III. The Light Rejected (vv. 10-11)

IV. The Light Received

I. Light Revealed.

A. Identification of the Light (vv. 1-3)

1. The Light is a Person

*He speaks of the light as "the Word," and equates the Word with a "He" To the Jewish mind, "the Word spoke of God's self disclosure and powerful self-expression.

*Hebrews 1:1: Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.

*God's Word is effective. God speaks and things come to being. Only those with personhood can do so. Jesus is not some force. He is a member of the Godhead. And this means that he loves and is loved by the other members of the trinity.

2. The Light was pre-existent

*John 1:15: "John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

3. The Light is a particular and distinct person

4. The Light is Powerful

*Colossians 1:16-17: for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see-such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

*We are talking about Jesus.

B. Illumination of Light (vv. 4-5)

*Jesus was at the beginning of creation. He was the beginning of the new creation. "Let there be light" has always been his activity. He is beginning of those of us who have experienced a new creation. He can be yours as well.

*Jesus is the creator and therefore the source of our life.

*In Jesus was life "and his life brought light to everyone." The word translated "light" is found some 230 times in the Bible. 27 of which are in John's Gospel, with further twelve uses in his first epistle and another 12 in Revelation. Light and Jesus are inseparable.

*Darkness is also prevalent in his Gospel. Darkness is not only the absence of light, but its the representation for evil.

*Though the word "darkness" only appears seven times in the Gospel of John and once in Revelation, nevertheless, what it symbolizes-opposition to God.

*God did not leave the world in complete darkness until the first coming of Christ. The light of God was present, for example, in the tabernacle and the temple. The light of Christ has always been present and particularly in God's word.

*God has not left the world in complete darkness. To this day, has we wait for the second coming of Christ, we have a light that is still shining and illuminating in this world. It's called the church.

*What are you doing with his light?

II. The Light Reflected (vv. 6-9)

*In verses 6-9 we are introduced to John the Baptist-the older cousin of Jesus who was called to prepare the way of the Lord.

A. The Messenger (v. 6)

*John highlights God's commitment to make this light known. And one of the ways he does this is by raising up, and sending forth human messengers.

*John the Baptist later on the Apostles and other earlier disciples and today the church, are human messengers God still sends forth to spread the light of Jesus to around the world.

B. The Mission (v. 7-8)

*John the Baptist saw himself as merely a light-bearer. He was a messenger on a mission.

*The mission continues but the messengers are expendable. The Master (Jesus) is light, his messengers are just that: Messengers.

*John 3:30: He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

C. The Mess (v. 9)

*The term "world" is a dominant concept in the Gospel of John. The word "world" is used 259 times in the Bible. 78 are located in the Gospel of John. A further 20 are found in 1 John, with one in 2 John and 8 in Revelation. In total, 41% of the occurrences of this word is found in John's writings.

*John uses the term "world" not primarily the physical cosmos, but rather the rebellious system to God's regal, rightful and righteous rule. It is that system that John sees as darkness.

*In other words the mess is the "world" because the world is in a mess without Jesus. It's up to us as his church to continue to shine light and bring "messes" to Jesus to be cleaned up.

III. The Light Rejected (vv. 10-11)

A. Universal Rejection (v. 10)

*John reveals that as Jesus was in the world, as he shone his light in this world, he was not recognized or pursued. He was rejected.

*Jesus was rejected not merely when he walked the earth for 33 years. But since, the fall, the world has turned a blind eye to him as it seeped into the darkness. The history of the world is a history of being willfully oblivious to the light.

*Romans 1:18-20: But shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

*The people whom Jesus created did not pursue a relationship with him. Through the history of the world, in spite of the presence of Christ, the world largely refused him.

*The world has always rejected a relationship with God. From Adam to the flood, in spite of an Enoch, the world rejected God. From the flood to Abraham, in spite of God's gracious act of judgment at Babel, the world rejected God.

B. Particular Rejection (v. 11).

*The rejection from the seed of Abraham.

-Gen 26:4: I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky."

*The light of the world was always in the world throughout history, there came a time in history when God chose a people through whom he would shine his light. The people were Israel. How did they respond? The majority rejected him.

*John Gospel helps us to understand the hostility of the world to the Christmas light. Unfortunately that hostility continues to this day.

Much of the world rejects God. And now there are some in "the church" that has compromised his word and rejected him too. Countries like North Korea have gone so far as to ban the celebration of Christmas.

*We must appreciate just how dark the world is so that we will see just how bright the light of Christ is. Christmas is a shout of victory in the midst our battle with darkness. Christmas is a bright light that declares that darkness will not win the day.

IV. The Light Received (vv. 12-13)

*Thankfully there were some who received the Light

A. A powerful Contrast (v. 12)

*"But" Not everyone rejected the light.

*John 20:31: But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

* Not everyone rejects Christ, not everyone remains in darkness, not everyone refuses a relationship with God in Christ. Rather there are many who turn from their sins and from the realm of the devil's dominion to live under the authority of God. Those who do are made "children of God."

B. A Powerful Conversion (v. 13)

*Nothing else can overcome spiritual darkness. Nothing else can deliver us from the domain of evil. Nothing else can overcome our propensity to depravity. Nothing else can overcome our natural rejection of the Lord. NO, the only way to become a child of God, the only way to stop rejecting the light and to receive the light, to turn from unbelief to belief-is to believe and surrender to our Lord Jesus Christ.

*In other words, we need to be "Born Again"

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6 If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand the

message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

*So, how should we respond to the Christmas Light?

1. Humility-The Grace of the new birth points us to the sovereign grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

2. Holiness-Realizing as Children of God, we should live like a Child of God.

***John 3:1-3: So how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.**

3. Hope-Knowing that as we face the darkness, it will not overcome the light.

*Life is dark and very dark. Just read through the Gospel. There is a dark place, some valleys of the shadow of death. Jesus was constantly under attack, under threat of life. He lived in the face of slanderous, malicious accusations and innuendo. Yet, int it all he never ceased to be the light

*Jesus constantly warned his disciples about the darkness that surrounded them. He constantly prepared them for the darkness they would face increasingly in the world. He warned them about the temptation to deny him, the dark temptation of apostasy. He warned them that the world would hate them. He warned them that even among themselves, a betrayer would arise.

*But he also encouraged them.

-John 16:33: I have told you all of this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

*Every year on December 25th, Christians around the world focus on the miracle of Christmas, the birth of the light of the world. It was a miraculous conception, culmination in a miraculous incarnation. And that miracle assures us of many more miraculous births-the births of more saved.

*Christmas, in so many ways, points us to God's sovereign and saving grace. Nothing is impossible with God.

*Galatians 4:19: Oh my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in our lives.

*Today, Confess your sin, Confess the Savior who will cleanse you from sins. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believe in him who experienced the ultimate darkness for all who will trust him as Savior and Lord. Believe in the one who lived as the full light of the world in sinless perfection. Believe in him who died in your place experiencing your ultimate darkness. Believe in him who rose from the dead. Believe as you experience the blessed light of the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. May you know the Christmas light-and the life that it brings, evermore.