

Jesus is Light

John 1.5-12

STUDENT DAYS – FINAL EXAMS fearsome experience

GOD WILL GIVE FINAL FINAL EXAM / given question in Advance

ANSWER determines ETERNAL DESTINY

SIMPLE QUESTION “What have you done with my Son?”

TERRIBLE ANSWERS in vs. 10, 11

v. 10 “though the world was made through him”

FINGER PRINTS OF GOD ALL OVER US /

PRESENCE INESCAPABLE / TRUTH UNDENIABLE

“the world did not recognize him” / Too Busy / Preoccupied with Self

HOW ABOUT THE JEWS / GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE

2000 YRS OF ANTICIPATION / LONG PROMISED MESSIAH COME

v. 11 “He came to that which was his own” APPLE OF GOD’S EYE

“but his own did not receive him”

SHOUTED TO PILATE “take him away, take him away, crucify him”

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY SON?

SAME BASIC WRONG ANSWER / Jews and Gentiles

Last 2 Weeks / Considered Question “Who is this Son, this Jesus?”

seen 2 things / Jesus is God / Jesus is Life / TODAY – Jesus is Light

SEQUENCE? / human attempt to understand incomprehensible God

BIBLE / PROFOUND TRUTHS from Simple Things / Salt and Light

1. The Light that Shines

a. Reveals / Jesus is LIFE GIVER and the LIGHT BEARER

v. 4 “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men”

MOM why don't you turn on the light so you can see what you're doing?
 GREAT QUESTION / EXACTLY WHY JESUS CAME

v 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world
 EVERY PERSON HAS RECEIVED THIS LIGHT

PHYSICAL REALM / WITHOUT LIGHT of SUN / EARTH would DIE

SPIRITUAL Realm / True / Son = Goodness, Joy, Truth, Purity, Hope

Ps 27.1 The Lord is my LIGHT and my salvation

Ps 36.9 For with you is the fountain of life;
 IN YOUR LIGHT WE SEE LIGHT

Genesis 1 = Creation of Universe in Six Days

Day 1 God said "Let there be LIGHT, and there was Light"

Day 4 God created the Sun to rule the Day

SCEPTICS MOCK / How could there be light with No Sun?

God is Light / "In your light we see light"

John / New Jerusalem "The city does not need sun or the moon to shine on it,
 for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp" 21.23

Ps 104.2 He wraps himself in LIGHT as with a garment

E.M. BLAIBLOCK "God is light...Without light there is no vision, no view of reality, no confident journeying, no growth save of chill and evil things, no health, no life. ...Light, like God, exists by itself, apart from that which it illumines. It is an environment, a condition, a wonder which fills and floods the whole immensity of space"

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF ALL MEN/ have all been saved by Him? No

CONTEXT/ Light has come to DIVIDE & EXPOSE the Darkness in Us

8.12 Jesus "I am the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the LIGHT OF LIFE"

HE IS THE LIGHT / WHO WILL FOLLOW? Who walks in Darkness?

African Woman told a Missionary in Zimbabwe

“You have brought us the light, but we don’t seem to want it. You have brought us the light, but we still walk in darkness”

MEANING OF LIGHT? / Complete Absence of Darkness

1 John 1.5 “God is Light, in him there is no darkness at all”

TOTALLY PURE, GOOD, HOLY, TRUE, JUST, RIGHT / Nothing Evil

TASKER “The source of man’s intellectual and spiritual perception, his conscience as well as his consciousness, is the divine Word. There is thus an affinity between the light that man possesses and the greater Light from which it comes. By this light he is able to look outside of himself, to contemplate and reflect upon the world into which he was born, to understand the working of its laws, to turn to his own use the physical forces latent within it, and to reflect something of its glory in his painting, his music and his literature. By this light he is able to look inward upon himself, and to become conscious of the strange contradictions in his nature – his capacity for doing good and his propensity for doing evil, his heavenly aspirations and his earthbound desires, his reaching for the stars and his descent into the abyss, his hope and his despair, his piety and his godlessness. For the truth is, that the light with which the Word illumines all men that are born, is a light shining in the darkness.”

LIGHT OF WORLD / John’s use of the Word World / More than Planet

1 John 2.15 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world.”

World where Creatures have Cursed their Creator

World with NO PLACE FOR JESUS /

only place for Baby Jesus was a feeding trough in a stable

only place for King Jesus was suspended from a cross of wood

WORLD ORGANIZED IN REBELLION AGAINST LIVING GOD

INCREDIBLE STATEMENT “God so LOVED the WORLD gave Son”

GOD'S LIGHT REVEALS OUR REALITY

b. Conceals / LIGHT ALSO COVERS AND CONCEALS

v 5 light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it

v. 10 the world did not recognize him / v. 11 his own did not receive him

TRUTHS MOST PRECIOUS TO US, CONFUSING TO THE WORLD

Jesus offers Light of Life / Some prefer to Walk in Darkness

Jesus is True Temple –dwelling of God / Disciples think of Building

Jesus offers New Life / Nicodemus asks “How can a man be born when he is old?”

Jesus offers Living Water / Samaritan woman says “You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep”

Jesus offers Healing / Invalid man “No one will lower me into the pool”

Jesus offers Bread of Life / Israel says “Manna” What is it? Who is it?

Jesus is the Truth / Pilate asks “What is truth?”

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned”
1 Cor 2.14

BELIEVERS SHOULD BE LIKE MOTH / attracted to Light

UNBELIEVERS ARE LIKE BEETLES / run away from the Light

like lifting up a rock and seeing all the bugs run from the light

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, & will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light
John 3.19

DARKNESS NOT JUST SOMETHING OUTSIDE / DWELLS INSIDE

Little girl, Tania, got into a fight with her brother
 Boy went crying to his mother, telling how his sister hurt him
 MOTHER “Tatiana, why have you let the devil into your heart to pull
 your brother’s hair?”

TANIA “Well maybe pulling his hair was the devil’s idea, but kicking
 him in the shins was my own idea”

TANIA WAS GOOD FIGHTER AND A GOOD THEOLOGIAN

Not the Devil who makes us Bad / He Arouses and Exploits BAD IN US

THAT IS WHY GOD SENT THE LIGHT / reveals and conceals

2. The Light was Sent

a. John’s Witness APOSTLE JOHN RECALLS OT BACKGROUND

v. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.

ESSENTIAL MISSION of JOHN v 7 through him all men might believe
 Jesus on John “Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater
 than John the Baptist” / GREATEST PRIVILEGE Matt 11.11

HERALD AND FORERUNNER OF THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

5.35 “John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to
 enjoy his light”

b. Our Witness JOHN IS GONE / NOW IT IS OUR TURN

One of the Great Themes of John’s Gospel is Witness / 8 W to Jesus

1) John the Baptizer 2) God the Father 3) Jesus Himself 4) Holy Spirit
 5) Works of Jesus 6) Scriptures 7) Various people 8) Apostle John

RISEN JESUS ADDS 9th Witness / Acts 1.8

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be
 my witnesses in Jerus, all Judea, Samaria, to ends of the earth”

Greek word for Witness is “Marturia” / Many believers MARTYRED
 some called to give ultimate sacrifice for Jesus – even Today

More believers killed as Christian witnesses in 20th C than all 19 C's
 GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT 21st C HAS IN STORE FOR CHURCH

A SHOCK FOR KING HEROD / had put John Baptist's head on platter
 LIGHT THAT JOHN WITNESSED to ONLY GREW STRONGER
 Killed the Messenger / Could not stop the Message

v. 5 "Light shines in the darkness, darkness CANNOT PUT IT OUT"

LESSON CHINA'S LEADERS HAVE NEVER LEARNED

1940's about 4 to 5 million Chinese believers

Churches closed / Missionaries Deported / Believers Killed

BELIEVERS SUFFERED AND TORTURED UP UNTIL NOW

NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY BELIEVERS IN CHINA TODAY

Conservative Est 50 Million / Good Reason to Believe – 100+ Million

v. 5 "Light shines in the darkness, darkness CANNOT PUT IT OUT"

Our Witness – AT BEST A POOR REFLECTION of the Light of World

BY WORLD'S STANDARDS OUR LIGHT MAY LOOK BRIGHT

live in Relative world of Human Goodness / Darkness & Shadows

Driving Down Highway at Night/ On-coming Car with High Beam Lights

SO BRIGHT YOU ARE NEARLY BLINDED

Drive Down Same Highway / Under Noon-day Sun

SAME CAR COMES WITH SAME LIGHTS ON / hardly notice

Jesus is Light / HIS BRILLIANCE IS INCOMPRABLE

3. The Light that Saves

a. Believers ONE OF GREATEST PROMISES IN ALL BIBLE

v. 12 "to all who received him, to those who believed in his name,
 he gave the right to become children of God"

FIRST USE OF WORD Faith / Believe in John // uses 36 X's in Gospel

Theme of Gospel "written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son
 of God, & that by believing you may have life in his name" 20.31

BELIEVE IN - NOT JUST INTELLECTUAL ASSENT

“I believe George W. Bush is President of the United States”

CORRECT FACT – NOT ENOUGH – Have I ever seen him?

Do I spend time with him? Have I spoken to him? He spoken to me?

LIT. – “Believe INTO” / or “Believe ON TO” / Total Dedication

June 30, 1859 FRENCH TRAPEZE ARTIST / BLONDIN age 31
IN HE CROSSED NIAGRA FALLS ON A TIGHTWIRE CABLE

65 meters high / 330 meters long

walked across– bicycled– sat at table, ate sandwich– Mgr in wheelbarrow

ASKED THE HUGE DAZZLED CROWD

“Do you believe I can carry a man across these falls in wheel barrow?”

ALL RESPONDED “Yes, of course, we just saw you do it”

BLONDIN ASKED “Who will climb in wheelbarrow & be taken across”

BELIEVING IN CHRIST more than intellectual assent or agreement

CLIMBING IN /COMPLETELY TRUSTING GOD / CARRIED THRU

v. 12 “to ALL who received Him” / without Distinction or Partiality

IF MY SALVATION – GIVE IT TO MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY

SOME PEOPLE I PROBABLY WOULD NEVER INVITE

BRUCE MILNE “John inhabited a world which confined its salvation to specific groups. Salvation could be had through philosophy, if one was intelligent; from the mystery cults, if one was among the initiated; by Jewish religion, if one had the right racial pedigree. By contrast, Christianity entered first-century as a faith for everyone, irrespective of intelligence quotient, age, gender, race or religious background.”

JESUS CAME INTO WORLD OF CLASS AND STATUS DIVISION

over half population in Roman Empire were Slaves

WOULD BE INCREDIBLE IF HE OFFERED US TO BE HIS SLAVES

ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF INVITES us to Become sons & daughters

SOVEREIGN KING EXTENDS HIS SCEPTER OF GRACE TO YOU

LOVING FATHER offers you Ring, Robe, Sandals, of Joyful Sonship

WOULD YOU REJECT THIS for the OPPORTUNITY TO FEED PIGS

GIVEN THE RIGHT / THE AUTHORITY / AS GOD'S CHILDREN
NOBODIES ARE TRANSFORMED INTO SOMEBODIES

During one Military Campaign / NAPOLEON / on horse, reading report
HORSE REARED almost threw French Emperor to the Ground
Corporal Bravely grabbed the Horse and Saved his Commander
Napoleon looked at him and said, "Thank you, Captain"
Young Man "Captain of what company sir?" NAPOL "Capt. of my Guards"
YOUNG MAN– Immediately threw down musket, tore off corporal stripe
BOLDLY WALKED INTO THE OFFICERS HEADQUARTERS
THEY ASKED "What are you doing?" // "I am the Captain of the Guard"
BY WHOSE AUTHORITY / BY ORDER OF THE EMPEROR

If one of his fellow Corporals had called him Captain, they could laugh!
But if the Emperor calls him a Captain, it is an IMMEDIATE REALITY
NOW IN CHRIST, GOD CALLS YOU HIS CHILD

RIGHT ANSWER FOR GOD'S FINAL FINAL EXAM

What have you done with my Son? / I have believed on Him

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

b. Born of God THINK WE CAN FIND GOD OURSELVES / Worthy

TRUTH IS – GOOD WORKS WILL NOT OUTWEIGH BAD
NO MERIT BEFORE GOD FROM FASTING, RITUALS, WORSHIP

v. 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God

NOT NATURAL DESCENT God has no grandchildren

Jews said "We are sons of Abraham" Jesus said "You are sons of devil"

IF YOUR PARENTS LOVE GOD, PRAISE GOD— follow their example
CANNOT CLAIM THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD

NOT HUMAN DECISION Jesus “you did not choose me, I chose you”

NOT HUSBANDS WILL some people have many connections here
“Do you know who my husband is?” / “My husband can get me in”

God says, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy and I will have
compassion on whom I will have compassion. It does not, therefore, depend on
man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy” Rom 9.15-18

Eric Alexander of Scotland “The only thing we contribute to the plan of
salvation is the sin to make it necessary”

Paul “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of
his mercy” Titus 3.5

BORN OF GOD Jesus told Nicodemus, Greatest Teacher in Israel
“You must be born again / born from above / new birth”

HOW MUCH DID WE DETERMINE ABOUT OUR FIRST BIRTH?
“I want to be an American, a boy, born to Mr. & Mrs. Blair, 6’ 4”
born in August in San Francisco, California?? NOT MY DECREES

IN THE NEW BIRTH – WE ARE BORN OF GOD – HIS DECREE

c. Bearers of Light ONE MORE IMPORTANT TRUTH ABOUT LIGHT

9.5 “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world”

JESUS KNEW THAT HE WOULD NOT BE IN THE WORLD LONG
WE NO LONGER HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SEEING HIM

BUT JESUS HAS A PLAN TO KEEP THE LIGHT SHINING – YOU!
Jesus to Disciples “You are the light of the world” Matthew 5.14

GATHERED PEOPLE OF GOD ARE A CITY SET ON A HILL
POWER OF THAT GATHERED LIGHT / REFLECTING THE SON

LAST SUNDAY VISITOR SAID “you have a great church here”
EVEN IN DARK DISCO / SENSED THE LIGHT OF GOD

WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF WHAT GOSPEL DOES TO A NATION

SOUTH KOREA / Archibald Campbell / early part of 20th C

Wrote of Korea he saw upon his arrival / before Church established

“In Korea there was spiritual darkness until the light of Christ was brought in. Men would sell their daughters, and sisters, and even their wives into prostitution with no qualms of conscience...Wife beating was common place. I have seen a man dragging his wife along the street by her hair. And my frantic appeal to the Chief of Police was useless...Medicine was available only for the wealthy, but if the poor became sick it was said, ‘If they cannot pay for it, let them die. Lepers were outcasts, the blind were beggars.’”

BUT AFTER 2 GENERATIONS OF CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN KOREA

A young Korean man, Oh In Ho, was given an almost unbelievable opportunity to go from his refugee camp, just after the Korean War, to be a student of the University of Pennsylvania, USA. Oh In Ho was attacked by a gang of thugs in Christian America, and was killed. His family, so poor they lived in a hovel of scrap lumber, rallied their family and friends to give out of their poverty. They sent hundreds of dollars to America with the request that the murderers of their son be forgiven, and that the money be used to send them to school so they could learn about Jesus Christ.

THAT IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD’S LIGHT TRANSFORMS

INDIVIDUALS AND PENETRATES A WHOLE SOCIETY

WE CELEBRATE THIS LIGHT IN THE COMING OF JESUS

EVEN AS THE OLD MAN SIMEON HELD BABY JESUS IN HIS ARMS

“Sovereign Lord...my eyes have seen your salvation...a LIGHT for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel”

Luke 2.29

JESUS “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8.12