

JESUS IS LIFE AND LIGHT

7-31-16

This afternoon we are going to the nursing home to minister. We like giving the patients a gift each time we go there, and this year we bought some pens for them that light up and had them engraved with John 8:12 ... Jesus is the Light of the world, taken from this text.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

As we gather together around the Word of God, there is no greater theme or greater message that I can share with you this morning than the wonderful attributes of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..

I Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

I Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

I Corinthians 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Why do we gather here this morning? Is it not to get you to love Him with a greater love? To serve Him with a greater zeal?

This morning I want to talk about two of the greatest attributes of Jesus Christ:

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Jesus said He is Light.

Jesus said He is Life.

Light and life go hand in hand.

LIGHT AND LIFE

I. THE FIRST THING GOD CREATED IN THIS WORLD WAS LIGHT.

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

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

A parallel passage to this in the New Testament is found in John 1:1 ... consider:

1. JESUS WAS THERE IN THE BEGINNING, CREATING ALL THINGS.

JESUS CREATED LIGHT.

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

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Jesus was the Word of God.

When God said "Let there be light," it was Jesus who said, "Let there be light."

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

God had a plan. The Bible says Jesus is the light of the world. God laid the backdrop when he painted the canvas of creation—knowing right well that some day Jesus would take on a body and come into this world and make this statement:

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

When God said, "Let there be light," He knew that some day He was going to make a new creation and that light would some day shine in the hearts of these new creatures in Christ. This was more important than the first creation.

How ignorant the peoples of this world are! All this fuss about global warming and the environment. They don't realize that God's supreme creation is not this magnificent world that He gave man as a toy to rule. He gave man dominion over it, and we have failed miserably. Instead of worshipping the Creator and thanking Him for all that He gave us, we honor and magnify the Creation. The Supreme Creation—the Supreme Light—is not the sun, moon, and stars ...

The Supreme Light is that light that God gives in our hearts and minds when we receive Him. But the world is in darkness and void of this Light.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

II Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Notice.. God who commanded the light to shine in darkness hath commanded His light to shine in our hearts. This is the greater light And it is the prince of darkness, even Satan, who blinds the hearts and minds of those who are void of this Light. Why? Because they believe not!

2. WHEN GOD MADE LIGHT THERE WAS NO OTHER SOURCE OF LIGHT BUT HIMSELF. IN THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH, ONCE AGAIN GOD HIMSELF WILL BE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIGHT.

What is interesting in this order of Creation is that God made light before there ever was a sun, moon and stars. What then was this source of light?

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

In Genesis there was light without the sun, moon or stars.

In Revelation in the New Creation and New Jerusalem there will be light without the sun, and there will be no darkness.

Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Imagine in that day there will be no night ... there will be no darkness.

3. So when we say God is light, this is a literal statement as well as a figurative statement.

I John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Jesus took His three key disciples—Peter, John, and James to a place alone and allowed them to see His glory, and we ready about this:

Matthew 16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Matthew 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

II. NOT ONLY IS JESUS LIGHT, BUT JESUS IS ALSO LIFE...

1. MEN WITHOUT CHRIST HAVE NO LIFE.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Christ is Light, and that Light emanates from Him without the sun.
But also—Christ is Life ... and He has life in and of Himself as well.

Who can emanate light by themselves?
Who can claim that they have life in themselves?

Only God could make such claims.

In the beginning was the Word. (Jesus)
And the Word was with God. (The Father)
And the Word was God.... (Jesus is co-equal to the Father and shares all His attributes)

Every attribute of the Father, the Son shares.

The Father has life in Himself ... The Son has life in Himself.
The Father is light ... The Son is light.
The Father has all power ... The Son has all power.
The Father created all things. The Son was in the beginning creating all things.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

2. HOW SAD IT IS THAT MEN DO NOT COMPREHEND THIS LIGHT AND LIFE.

The light shone in this dark world, and the men of this world did not comprehend it. And why do they not comprehend it?

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

II Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

It is supernatural how men do not honor Christ and respect Him. Instead they blaspheme His name. They use His name as a vile curse and take His name in vain. This is almost supernatural. Why do they not take Mohammad's name in vain? Why do they not take Allah's name in vain? Why do they not take any of the ancient gods names in vain? They could choose from a host of them. Baal, Jupiter, Zeus, on and on we could go. They use the name JESUS CHRIST as a vile phrase in some of the most filthy superlatives imaginable, and why? It is because the god of this world (Satan) knows that if they honor Christ and come to the Light, then he (Satan) will cease to be their god, and they will be transformed from the kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of Light. SO HE MUST BLIND THEIR EYES. THEY USE HIS NAME AS AN EXPLETIVE WITH NO MEANING AT ALL.

In fact, I would sometimes ask people why they use the Lord's name in their speech the way they do—and often I got a blank stare. As if to say, “I don't know why I say it!”

The Light shined in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

III. WE AS GOD'S PEOPLE NEED TO BEAR WITNESS OF CHRIST AND HIS LIGHT.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

John 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

God sent John the Baptist to bear witness of that Light, and this is our supreme purpose in this world. Jesus leaves us here to bear witness of the Light .. to share that Light .. So this afternoon we go to the nursing home to give away these little pens. And why do we do this? We do it to bear witness of the Light.

What is our goal? The same goal that John the Baptist had:

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

Our goal is to get men to believe in that Light.

We are here for one reason only. This is our commission; this is our supreme purpose in life, and this is our supreme commission.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO MAKE MONEY.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO HAVE FUN.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO BE FAMOUS.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO BE ENTERTAINERS.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO BE POPULAR OR LIKED.

More important than being the President of the United States is to get people to come to that Light.

The ministry of John the Baptist was a rather short ministry, yet Jesus said up to that point there was no greater prophet than John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

So we see it is not how long you live that makes your life important; it is what you do with the life He has given you to be a witness to his life and light!

IV. WHEN WE RECEIVE HIS LIGHT, WE GET LIFE ALSO.

What a great verse this is:

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Imagine this: if we receive His light, we get new life also.

His light is all around us, and people do not comprehend His light.

Here He is—the One who created all things, and people reject Him.

Here is the Creator who came down to earth, and His creation rejects Him.

HOW SAD THAT IS.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

II Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

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JESUS IS LIGHT AND LIFE - Evening Message
July 31, 2016

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John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1. IT IS SUPERNATURAL HOW THE WORLD REJECTED HIM ...

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

It makes absolutely no sense at all—why men are so antagonistic to Christ. Why? What evil did He do to be rejected? Why was He despised? Why was He rejected?

Read this description of His coming into this dark world:

It was predicted of Him:

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Isaiah 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

In the early 70's when Peter Accardi got saved and witnessed to me, I rejected the gospel. But I noticed how antagonistic people were toward his conversion, and I was baffled by the reaction of people. Why all this animosity? As if he became a murderer—or some villain. Why all the drama?

People would ask, “What ever happened to Peter Accardi?” and I would say he went off to Clarks Summit to Bible College. And then they would say, “Oh, that's a shame ... you guys had such a great rock & roll band ...” Never did I hear the words, “Well, good for him. That's great.. I'm glad he is no longer smoking dope and doing drugs, no longer carousing and womanizing...” No---instead they would say, “Oh that's too bad!” HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS? There is only one explanation:

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Jesus came into this world, and the world had no clue as to who He was.

He came to his own and His own received Him not!

What evil did Jesus do that men rejected Him?
What evil did He do to put Him on the cross as a common thief and criminal?

Jesus came to His own. And who were His own?

He came to the Jewish nation to present Himself as their Jehovah—Jehovah-Hoshe'ah – the Lord Saves. Jesus was their Jehovah/ Yeshua.. The great I AM of the Old Testament.

What greater works could He do to prove who He was ...

Note:

Jesus was Light, and we need light when we read or write. He was the living Word. What greater need for light but to understand something?

In my office I have this light that I can direct right on a book as I read. It is an essential part of my office. You can't get any work done without light. One of the main reasons I built my house was so that I could move my office to my house where I can work late at night.

I am writing this sermon about 4:00 A.M. It is dark out, but the lights are on in my office. Years ago, when we lived in the back of the church, I had no room in my house for an office with four children. So my office was in the church, and when I was studying or working late at night the lights would be on in the church. One night I was working late around 2 or 3 a.m., and I saw someone downstairs in the auditorium with a flashlight. It was a State Trooper. He saw the lights on and heard something in the church and came to investigate. I was in the sound room doing a recording project late that night and had the lights on.

Jesus is Light, His light is always on—24/7.

He is working. He is broadcasting truth.

His works show and expose who He is.

Can you imagine men rejecting Him after all the great works He did?

Think about this:

He healed every manner of sickness. WHY? BECAUSE HE MADE MAN.

Who knows better how to fix something than the one who manufactured it?

We repair and rebuild Vintage Hammond organs. The genius of these instruments—which were made in America—was that for about 30 years, there was consistency in the making of parts. Screws are interchangeable, and cabinet parts are interchangeable. Though the company that made these instruments is no longer in existence, there are so many interchangeable parts that these instruments can still be repaired. That is not the case of items that are coming out of China. They make things cheap—but you can forget about getting parts.

Now I say all this to say that no one knows better how to repair something than the one who made it. I would tell my kids when they would help me repair pianos, “Just assume the manufacturer knew what they were doing when they made the instrument and try to get everything back to the way it was originally.”

Now the biggest problem with our medical system is that we are ignorant of the One who made our bodies. We start off with the wrong presupposition about our bodies. We think we can, with our own science, figure out a better way to mend the body. Why do people not assume that God knew what was best, and all we need to do is get things back to the way He intended it to be?

Ever notice that the super heroes of today are always these mutant meta humans. In other words, the idea is that by some freak accident, or trauma, or genetic mutation, an ordinary person can be transformed into something super human. This is an entertaining thought, but the truth is that whenever there is a genetic mutation, just the opposite happens.

When a baby is born with the wrong amount of chromosomes (a perfect illustration of a mutant human), it is always a bad thing. This produces what we call Down Syndrome. Not a super Meta Human. Evolution is so ingrained in our society that we actually believe fiction is real.

In our fictitious minds we actually think that a boy who is bitten by bats can become this Meta Human called Batman. A man who is struck by lightning can become this super-fast being called Flash.

Now because we reject God as our Creator, with all our advancements in medicine, we fail to look at the human body as a wonderful design made by God. Instead we look at it as a biological machine. Just think what healing could take place if we used all our knowledge to facilitate the healing process God has already placed in our bodies. All we have to do is facilitate what He has already placed there.

In the millennium God will give leaves and herbs for the healing of the nation. But you can't make money from leaves and herbs. So we look to pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies for healing. They will not explore the benefits of natural herbs because they can't make money and copyright these types of remedies. If the government really wanted to solve health care issues in our nation, they would encourage this kind of research. But again, our presuppositions determine our actions with regards to health care.

Imagine! Jesus did what our medical industry still cannot do. He healed people of every sickness and every disease!

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

It is supernatural how when He came, they did not receive Him.

You would think the leaders of the nation would have been glad that He healed people. Instead they were critical.

Today if someone had a cure for cancer, they would put him in jail because they would say he is practicing medicine without a license!!!!

You would think they would have been glad that He raised Lazarus from the dead. Instead they got worried that Jesus would win some kind of election, and they would lose their jobs and position. So they talked about killing Lazarus and killing Jesus.

DON'T THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT OUR POLITICIANS ARE ANY DIFFERENT TODAY!

When it comes to power and corruption there is no end! Our heads would spin if we really knew what was going on!

You think the leaders would have been glad and rejoice over the teaching and kind words of our Lord. Instead they nitpicked about His words and accused Him of violating the Sabbath.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

There is only one explanation for this blindness.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

It is supernatural; it defies human reasoning.

So it is today. When Peter Accardi received Christ.

You would think people would have said, "That's great—he cleaned up his life."
You would think people would have said, "I am glad he is no longer smoking pot."

You would think people would have said, “It’s about time he was a better husband to Jeanie, his wife ...”

You would think people would have said, “Good for him—he’s going to church and being a responsible person—took that goofy earring out of his ear, cut his hair, and stopped wearing those silly clothes.”

You would think people would have said, “Hey, he doesn’t curse any more ...”

You would think people would said, “Wow, he stopped drinking. Sooner or later he was going to get killed or kill someone else driving that Corvette of his late at night like a nut ...”

NO, INSTEAD HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED..

I Peter 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

I Peter 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

I Peter 4:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

They think you’re strange. They think we’re crazy. They speak evil of us.

WHY THERE IS NO EXPLANATION FOR IT? EXCEPT:

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

V. WHEN WE RECEIVE HIS LIGHT, WE ARE BORN OF GOD AND BECOME THE SONS OF GOD.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Why do men not reason?

In 1974.. I thought about all this and said to myself, “Why are people so against this way? It defies reason.”

Instead of looking at Christ in a positive way, they speak evil of Him and His followers.

There is no explanation for all of it—except that the Bible is true!

When we receive Him, God gives us the power to become the sons of God...

1. THIS IS LIFE ...

Life is an amazing thing. Only God gives life.

The abortion issue is a life issue. Are babies just a biological product of a woman's body? If so, it would follow reason: Why can't a woman do with her body what she chooses?

If she wants to pierce her ears to wear an earring, will we make a law against it?

If she wants to have long hair, dye her hair, or cut her hair, who are we to tell her what to do with her body?

The pro-choice people say that until that baby comes out of the womb and is an independent biological being, that baby is just a biological mass of tissue and no different from a tumor; and if the mom decides to remove that tumor, why will we condemn her for it?

BUT ONLY GOD GIVES LIFE.

LIFE COMES FROM GOD, AND IT IS NOT JUST A BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT OF CHANCE.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

When we receive Him, He gives us power to become the sons of God.

WHICH ARE BORN NOT OF BLOOD ...Salvation is not passed on by physical blood. NOT JEW, GENTILE, ROMAN, USA, ETC.

So too ... notice we are not born of the will of the flesh. No human earthly power.

WE ARE BORN OF THE WILL OF GOD!

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Galatians 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

Galatians 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

God was not caught by surprise when we believed on Him.

Have you received Him?

Are you part of that group that says, "He came to His own and His own received Him not!"

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS:

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: