

Receive True Light

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:6-13

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Dec 24, 2017

Big Idea: Jesus came as true light into our spiritually dark and dead world so that those who would believe in his name would be reborn as children of God.

[30] Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
John 20:30-31 (ESV)

1. God sovereignly prepared the way for Christ (vv. 6-8)

[6] There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7] He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. [8] He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
John 1:6-8 (ESV)

- a. God promised and provided a messenger (Is. 40:30; Mal 3:1, Lk. 1:76-80)
- b. God announced Christ through his messenger
 - i. God made John the Baptist's calling clear

[23] He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."
John 1:23 (ESV)

- ii. God showed John the Baptist that Jesus was the Christ

[32] And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. [33] I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' [34] And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."
John 1:32-34 (ESV)

- iii. God gave John the Baptist his message

[4] John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
Mark 1:4 (ESV)

- Are we clear on our calling as followers of Christ?
- Is our confidence in God?

- **Are we sharing the light we've received?**

2. Christ came and demands a response (vv. 9-13)

[9] The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. [10] He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. [11] He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. [12] But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:9-13 (ESV)

a. True light entered our dark world (v. 9-10)

The light of Christ shines upon every man and divides the race: There are those who hate the light and respond by fleeing so that their deeds are not exposed. Then there are those who receive the light of revelation in Christ and draw near by God's grace. - **D.A. Carson**

b. The only two responses

i. Reject him

[19] And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. [20] For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

John 3:19-20

ii. Receive him

[12] But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:12-13 (ESV)

- **To receive Christ is to believe in his name**
- **When we receive Christ we are reborn by God. How?**
 - **Not by nationality or blood**

There are millions of people who do not yet follow Christ. Some of them are church attenders and church members, even leaders. But they are not born again. They are cultural Christians. Religion is a formal, external thing. There has been no true inner awakening from spiritual death to spiritual life. - **John Piper**

- **Not by physical rebirth**
- **Not by effort**
- **But by God**

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV)