

The Gospel of John - #2 - 10/11/2020 - "The Light Is ON!" John 1: 3-5

An astronomy lesson- we can know this Creator personally!

Introduction: PIC- IL- J. B. Phillips - The scientist takes his or her telescope and focuses it on the reaches of space. Out there are distances so vast that a special unit of measure is needed with which to express those concepts. The astronomer's yardstick is a light year: the distance light travels in one year (at 186,273 miles per second- the equivalent of encircling the earth at the equator seven and a half times). In round numbers, that is about six trillion miles. Our sun, by that yardstick, is eight light minutes away. But out there in space are suns and stars believed to be billions of light years away. Nor can we count the stars or guess how many billions there are. Some stars are large beyond all thought. The star Antares, for instance, is 10,000 times as big as our sun! In the constellation Hercules is a star that could contain one hundred million stars the size of Antares. Scientist about 20 years ago sent a coded message to the Hercules constellation hoping that if there was life out there a response would be given! One huge problem with that endeavor is that an answer, if returned, would take 22,000 years to get here!

We're going to look at **John 1: 3-5** through the lens of creation to learn more about Jesus, the Word, who is the eternal God! These verses are part of what is commonly called the "Prologue" or preface to the Gospel of John. The word 'prologue' means "first words" and they are critical and marvelous first words for sure! They are HIS words about Him- let's check them out in six key phrases under three headings corresponding to these three verses...

His creation demonstrates that He is God! Verse 3 The truth about Jesus certainly begins "in the beginning" with creation, and what we learn is that the Father created through the Son. Genesis 1 also tells us that the Holy Spirit was involved. But the Apostle John was led by that same Spirit to record the act of creation *through* Jesus...

All was made by Him- Jesus was the *agent* of creation- it all came into being through His powerful, spoken word- "Let there be..." Jesus was not merely an instrument or tool in the Father's hands- He was THE Creator. When the text says "all things" were made by Him, it uses the Greek word 'panta' which means "all in every part or piece, or "all things separately", yet how well and how beautifully they combine- in space and here on earth! This first phrase, all was made by Him" indicates design with the resulting beauty only the Eternal God could speak into existence! Satan attacks the Biblical teaching of creation, but John is clear here "all things were made by HIM"- not a process of evolution or by accident! And the result is that creation becomes the arena of salvation! It is here on planet earth, hung in space, that Jesus was born as a man, lived a perfect and sinless life and willingly gave His life on the tree- a tree like the millions of trees He spoke into being at creation! Many expositors over the centuries have used the Latin phrase "ex nihilo" or "out of nothing" to describe John's record of creation. Jesus as Creator is distinct from His creation- by that it is clear that God is NOT nature! Rather this is God's handiwork, and so are we if we have come to know the Creator in a personal way. Ephesians 2: 10 reads- "For we are His workmanship (His handiwork), created in Christ Jesus FOR good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them!" As beautiful as is the rest of His creation we are the highlight of His handiwork! **IL-** In preparing this message I learned that a few years ago more than 1,000 scientists from all different fields of study signed a statement disavowing evolution! Some of them had been vocal proponents of Darwinism, but their studies proved that divine creation is the only

true explanation. **IL-** Many unbelieving people in John's day thought that all matter was evil, and that God wouldn't have touched it and therefore didn't create it. They taught that some "lesser god" or an angel may have created what we can see in our universe, and that Jesus was perhaps that 'lesser god' but not the Eternal God. We know them historically as Gnostics, a name taken from the Greek word that means "mystical knowledge". Because they would not honor the real Jesus, and since matter was evil in their thinking, they either became ascetics who lived in isolation and avoided pleasure, or they pursued hedonism and indulged every fantasy imaginable in their material bodies. All they really proved is that Jeremiah 17: 9 is abundantly true- "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked- who can know it?" Certainly not the ancient "know it alls"! But the truth John presents is that Jesus spoke everything into being and that...

Nothing was made apart from Him- Psalm 33: 6- "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth **all** their hosts!" Yes, those billions of stars and planets were brought into being by the Eternal God, the Son of God- Jesus Christ! Absolutely not one thing was already there- matter is not eternal, but the Creator of matter in all its forms IS! **IL-** A.W. Pink- "Man cannot bring a single blade of grass into existence!" We just have to mow it and trim it! The most vocal of atheists or humanists has no answer for the beauty and symmetry and functionality of Jesus' handiwork. The detail in a colorful flower or in the body and wings of a honeybee is testimony to God's design and detail that millennia of evolution couldn't possibly explain. To explain it all as evolving from the distant past and still evolving today is not the answer. There is no possible way that such unbelievers could know evolution to be true because we weren't there- only God was, and His Holy Spirit told Moses about it and John about it! And we can trust that record of creation! The text is clear that **NOTHING** was there 'in the beginning' when Jesus spoke all of it into existence for God's glory- to focus attention on the life Jesus alone gives and shine a spotlight on Him as the Light of the world! Let's work through those two concepts about our Lord and Savior Jesus...

His life and light deliver what we need! Verse 4 Because He is the Creator, He knows exactly what we need most, especially in a spiritual sense!

Life in Him and from Him- In reality Jesus brought into the universe two masterpieces- physical creation, including man, and re-creation for sinful man by His grace! Everything He spoke into being has form, pattern, beauty- sin damaged some of that beauty! But through the Creator we can have new life by faith! And we can fulfill our purpose for being on this planet! **IL-** Westminster Confession of Faith- "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever!" Jesus not only created everything and each of us, He preserves all of His creation! Colossians 1: 17 says- "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together!" **IL-** Dr. Adrian Rogers said that it means Jesus is the "glue of the galaxy!" He created all things, gives life to plants, animals and people, and keeps all of it in His strong, loving hands! The word translated "life" in this verse is different from the word that speaks of physical life (bios). This word is "zoe" and refers to the principle of life- the source, the core of true, worthwhile existence. John 11: 25- "I am the Resurrection and the life- he that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live!" Jesus doesn't just contain life or merely dispense it- He IS life itself as to His nature and character. **IL-** It is not like going to the Savior for an 'injection' of life or even a transfusion- it is rather a complete re-creation! He doesn't expect us to clean up our act and THEN He will save us. He does more than clean us up morally- He makes us brand new! The result, for those who put their faith in the finished work of Christ at Calvary, is a divine quality of existence- a life with wonderful purpose. Jesus is not only the life-giver, He is the light-shiner!

The exclusive source of spiritual light- Jesus does not give out a spark of light, like a briefly lit match, but puts IN believers the light that is characteristic of Him as the Light of the World! Outside of Jesus, who is the Light, there is only and certainly darkness. Darkness in Scripture is a picture of sin, death, separation and ignorance- for many a willful ignorance! 2 Corinthians 4: 3, 4- "If our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." Satan does whatever he can to keep those spiritual blinders on the unsaved. But God's power and the saving work of Jesus are more than enough to turn the Light on! Then, in place of sin there is God's righteousness like a robe given to us to wear. In place of death there is eternal life and abundant life now. In place of separation there is oneness with the Triune Godhead and fellowship with all our brothers and sisters in the Lord. And in place of ignorance the Bible becomes like a well-lit sign-post that points us in the direction of deep doctrinal truth, meaningful encouragement and practical application. But all of that only comes from Jesus, **the** Light. It won't be found in the heresies of men or the philosophies of lost men and women who refuse to move toward the light...

His power decrees victory- His and ours! Verse 5 True believers always move toward fellowship, prayer and the Word whereas unbelievers move away unless drawn by the Spirit of God. John 1: 5 has its parallel in 1 John 1: 5- "This is the message that we have heard from Him and declare to you- that God is light and in Him is no darkness!"

He shines at this very moment- This Light has always existed and will be "on" forever! Jesus said, two thousand years ago in John 8: 12- "I am the Light of the world- whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life!" IL- "The sun is no less bright because a blind person can't see it!" If darkness represents willful ignorance, then the Pharisees and religious leaders of Jesus' day were blinded by darkness, because they refused to understand the Person and mission of Jesus, and their intense hatred for the Savior spewed out in the repeated words, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" But at this very moment, though His Light is right now shining, there are many like those Jewish leaders who refuse His light and His life and love! John 3: 19, 20- "And this is the judgment that light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed!" Light is an emblem of or, if you will, a bright spotlight, on the character of God! Light's nature is to shine!

Light invades the kingdom of darkness- Jesus' light can't lose! While on earth He was not understood and was opposed, but the opposers are gone and He is still around and always will be! Then and now, light cannot be overcome by darkness- it is the other way around! He will be victorious in the end, and so will His followers who are here on the planet to shine HIS light through yielded lives of service and witness! Ephesians 5: 7, 8- "Therefore do not become partners with them, for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true)!" The darkness can resist the light but not remove its glow! When I think of light, I think of how it makes it possible to see things and identify what you are looking at. That is why some people use night lights or motion-detector lights for security and protection. May we never lose sight of His creative power and abundant life in the Light! Light's nature is to shine- is that YOUR nature? Philippians 2: 14-15- "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world!" The darkness that is our sinful world cannot extinguish Jesus' light or the light we shine as brightly as we can in this place! The word "overcome" comes from the Greek phrase referring to a wrestler attempting to take down an opponent. Darkness can't take down the light. And God doesn't need to fight back- He just keeps shining the Light, because it

is powerful! And so should we. In fact, we need to do what we can to make it crystal clear that we are reflecting the light of Jesus!

Conclusion: IL- P.P. Bliss song- 1875 "The Light of the World is Jesus!

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin- the Light of the world is Jesus!

Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in- the Light of the world is Jesus!

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide- the Light of the world is Jesus!

We walk in the light when we follow our Guide- the Light of the world is Jesus!

CHORUS [Not on the screen]: Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee! Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me!

Once I was blind but now I can see! THE Light of the world is Jesus!

Yes, the Light is ON! Come to the Light!