

Christmas Series 2018
"JESUS: Light to Live By"
(Part 2)

John 1:1-14 (MSG)

The Life-Light

(1-2) "The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.

(3-5) Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!— came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.

(6-8) There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

(9-13) The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten.

(14) The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish."

Darkness keeps us from seeing things clearly, for how they truly are. One of the devil's greatest tricks is deception, he attempts to get us to believe something that simply isn't true and, if he can do that enough, it compounds and before we know it our whole worldview becomes deceived.

Those who did not receive Him didn't because they were still in darkness. The true Light came into the world but many still chose not to accept Him, not to receive the Light. They chose instead to continue living in darkness.

To what level of darkness are we living in today?

1 Peter 2:8b-9 (NLT)

"They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are

royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:8-9 NLT

When the Light has come, and we have received it, real Life can come.

Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

Matthew 7:1-5 NIV

To the level you are walking in the Light is the level you can see yourself and others clearly enough in order to live with clarity, humility and purpose.

There is a biblical order to things:

LIGHT leads to LIFE

Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

Genesis 1:1-3 NIV

Isn't this how we have felt in our own human experience before? Feeling empty inside? Darkness covering us? But God said- LET THERE BE LIGHT! Light changes everything and light must come first before LIFE. Light gives way to life!

LIFE IS A PERSON

So often we live like there's a better life out there somewhere. The grass is always greener somewhere else we tell ourselves. I'm off to find the good life. If I just had this possession or wasn't in that relationship or didn't live in this place...we lament. But the reality today is that LIFE IS A PERSON. His name is Jesus Christ. When you find Him, you find abundant life!

John 10:10 (NLT)

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”

John 10:10 NLT

This is God’s heart for you and me today but we have to start by asking ourselves,

1. In what area(s) am I still living in darkness? Meaning what part(s) of my life have I not been living according to God’s Word?

2. Am I pursuing life as a process or am I pursuing LIFE as a person? Have I come to the realization that LIFE IS A PERSON and am I choosing to spend time with that person everyday?

Proverbs 3:1-6 (NLT)

“My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

Proverbs 3:1-6 NLT