

## That You May Have Life in His Name

### John 1:6-8

Pastor Lee Cadden

Last week Matt took us through John 1:1-5...

If you were like me you left with a renewed sense of the majesty of God, **overawed at his vastness** and **sovereignty** while at the same time overjoyed to be reminded by John that **God loves me, and He wins the battle over darkness**, or as Matt taught us: ***the realm of sin and evil***.

**Today we continue in v.6-8 of chapter 1**, for a moment, be reminded of the darkness that surrounded these two groups of people:

- 1) The people who were **eyewitnesses**, like John the Son of Zebedee, to the works and life of Jesus. Those who had been with him and experienced both the power - the healings, freedom and hope - as well as the kindness - the compassion, mercy and pity - of the Son of God, Jesus.
  - a) These people experienced Jesus' coming after 400 years of silence from God - no messiah, no prophets, no new teachings -
    - i) and now they were occupied by Rome, the quintessential kingdom of darkness (as far as they could tell)
  - b) Could this really be the One we've hoped and waited for?
- 2) And the second, **those who came after** the life of Jesus, had heard the testimonies of the apostles, and were part of a rapidly growing movement in the 2nd half of the first century that both Rome and the Jews were desperate to squelch.
  - a) The persecution of the people of God was horrific, and yet the promise of John 1:5 remained: ***"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."***
    - No matter how bad things were, and they were going to get worse, their hope in Jesus' was sure

### Come back to 2023...

John's account of the life and ministry of Jesus began to circulate then, and the purpose remains today for it's writing and inclusion in the Bible:

***these things were written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that by believing you may have life in his name (20:30)***

John 1:1-5 then serves to set the stage of just how wonderful and magnificent it is that the eternal, uncreated Son of God, who is God and who was with God, and who comes from God ...

... **that he would come at all.**

... wonder, majesty, beauty... and then...

**[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)**

**This abrupt change** is done intentionally by John, and this brief introduction to Jesus' cousin by his earthly mother's family, is meant to be **contrasted** with the One who is **LIGHT and LIFE**.

A few things to note here:

1. John is **but a man** → there was a sect of Judaism (Acts 19) that tried to make John the Baptist king/Messiah by force, John is making it abundantly clear here, and all throughout his gospel, that he is only a man, not the Uncreated One, but wonderfully tho...
2. John is **a man sent by God** →
  - a. The one who would come as a forerunner of Jesus, after 400 years of silence, would come as one heralding the news that the long awaited Messiah, the One who would set all who believe free was coming...

John's entire life was wrapped up in this singular purpose, a mission clearly marked out for him from the time he was in his mother's womb, all culminating with this task:

- **"To bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him" (v.7)**
- **He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light" → repeated in v.8**
- As **alpenglow before a sunrise above the treeline**, John gives a beautiful picture of what is coming...
  - The sun is rising, this is not the sunrise, the mountains painted in pink and orange are not actually so, but a reflection of what is coming...
  - And then BAM...the sun breaks over the eastern ridgeline
  - The wonderful picture of John's life and testimony, his witness, was just so...

**Let's pause here for a moment...**

Ask this question: **WHY?** Why have this man come in the way that He did? If you are the creator of the universe, surely people will see.

Surely people will recognize you, right?

**Arthur Pink explains it well:**

*When the sun is shining in all its beauty, who are the ones that are unconscious of the fact? Who need to be told it is shining? The blind! How tragic, then, when we read that God sent John to "bear witness of the light." How pathetic that there should be any need for this! How solemn the statement that men have to be told "the light" is now in their midst. What a revelation of man's fallen condition.<sup>1</sup>*

Just as John did, just as Arthur Pink did, just as Paul did when he called the Ephesians to **Awake, O sleepers, "and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."** (Ephesians 5:14 ESV) ...

We too live among a generation of the dead. Breathing, living, working, yes...but thriving? Alive in Christ?

Aware of their need for Christ?

Awake to their mortality?

Confident in their eternal security?

---

<sup>1</sup> *Exposition of the Gospel of John*, A.W. Pink

## We know that is not the case. We live among the blind as ones who see because of Jesus

The gospel [HERE](#) introduces the one who would yell, at the top of his lungs → with the way he lived, where he lived, preaching the message that he did, and baptizing those ready to SEE JESUS...

### ... As a Witness

Leon Morris writes: *The matter of witness is a serious thing, establishing truth and giving ground for faith. Yet, witness “does more. It commits a man. If I take my stand in the witness box and testify that such-and-such is the truth of the matter I am no longer neutral. I have committed myself. John lets us know that there are those like John the Baptist who have committed themselves by their witness to Christ.*<sup>2</sup>

And In His gospel, we will see witness after witness to the person, work, life, death, resurrection, and ministry of Jesus. In fact, there are no less than eight.<sup>3</sup> I’ll share them briefly now, knowing we will cover them again in the months ahead:

#### 1. *The witness of the Father -*

- John 5:37 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, (ESV)
- John 8:18 - I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” (ESV)

#### 2. *The witness of Jesus himself*

- John 8:18 - I am the one who bears witness about myself...
- John 8:14 - Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

#### 3. *The witness of His works*

- John 5:36 - But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

#### 4. *The witness of the Scriptures*

- John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

#### 5. *The witness of the last of the prophets*

- John himself, bears witness to Jesus here in our text and again at Jesus’ baptism

#### 6. *The witness of those who were healed*

- The woman at the well, the man born blind, and the many who would even stand before the sanhedrin telling of all that Jesus had done.

#### 7. *The witness of the 12 disciples*

- John 15:27 - And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

#### 8. *The witness of the Holy Spirit*

- John 15:26 - “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

---

<sup>2</sup> *The Gospel According to John*, Morris, Leon (1971), quoted in *Enduring Word: John* by David Guzik

<sup>3</sup> This succinct list comes from William Barclay’s *The Gospel of John, Vol.1*, (1975).

**Witness is indeed a serious matter →**

**It is by the power of the Spirit then that our eyes are opened, and realize we have been walking in darkness...and now have seen this great light...the life of men...**

And we must each then answer this one question:

**What will you do with this Jesus?**

If the purposes of God have been revealed in Jesus and have been testified to by no less than these - the Father, the Son, the Spirit, the prophets, the scriptures, the 12 closest to him, the miracles he performed and from the mouths of those who were healed by him...

- **Then we must respond to this King Jesus.**

**John testifies to the light, not because the light wanted to have a parade, “yay look at me...”**

No, John says it plainly, and as we orient our year together, would it be around this truth:

- That you and I would believe...
- And that by believing, you and I would then have life in his name.

Not a mediocre, check the box kind of life, but as Jesus will describe, an abundant, full life!! Starting now and culminating in heaven!

We will see time and time again this year that there are many who testify to the goodness and life of Jesus. Many who witness him to their world...

1. But if you have seen the light of life...
2. And if you have believed in him and
3. If you who believe now have life in his name
4. Then your life matters, and
5. Just as John was a man “sent from God” → with a singular focus and aim of his life...
6. Don’t think for a second that God doesn’t have intentions for yours.

2 Corinthians 5:17–21

**[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

The great privilege and responsibility of all who have life in His name is that **you can no longer remain an ambassador of self.** You cannot see Jesus and remain unchanged. And when you see Him, you too will witness, with **all of your life (your parenting, your job, your studies, your purity, what you watch/dont, say/dont)** to a world that doesn’t even know that the lights are on, darkness has lost, and the king is on his throne.

**What will I do with this Jesus?**