

Reflecting the Light

John 1.1-18 communicates two basic truths. 1) The Word was God, 1.1. 2) The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, 1.14. Everything we are and believe as Christians hinges on these two statements. Last week we spent our time examining 1.1-5. Jesus is victorious Light. In Him is life. He is the Creator of all things. He was with and is God. John's gospel was written that you might believe these things, 20.31. Those who believe have eternal life and *have passed from death to life*, John 5.24. Today we'll examine John 1.6-8 and learn about our mission God has called us to: Reflecting the Light.

I. John 1.6: God Sent a Man Called John

- A. John 1:6: *There was a man **sent** from God whose name was John.*
- B. Why is John inserted here? It's a tremendous contrast. What does it convey to us?
 - 1. God's way of pushing back the darkness is through human witnesses.
 - 2. Jesus didn't need John to make himself known... He could have done it himself.
- C. We have been given the mission of proclamation
 - 1. Matthew 5:16: *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may **see** your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*
 - 2. 1 Peter 2:9: *..., so that you may **proclaim** the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:18b: *God gave you the **ministry** of reconciliation.*
 - 4. 2 Corinthians 5:19b - that ministry involves a **message**.

II. John 1.7a: To Provide Testimony About the Light

- A. John 1:7: *He came as a witness to **testify** about the light, ...*
- B. Two key words in this verse: "witness" and "testify."
- C. In John 5.35 Jesus described it as *burning and **shining** lamp*.
- D. What is John's message of truth? See John 1.15; 23; 27; 29-30; 34; 36.
- E. How did John deliver that message?
 - 1. With simplicity - Mark 1.4 - he lived in the wilderness.
 - 2. With humility - John 3.30 - *he must increase, I must **decrease**.*
 - 3. With courage - Matthew 14.10 - the message of righteousness he bore cost him his life.
- F. 1.7a - John's message was **about the light**.
 - 1. God wants to use us today to bear witness about Jesus.
 - 2. We fix our eyes on Him.

III. John 1.7b: The Purpose of Testimony

- A. John 1:7: *So that all might **believe** through him.*
 - 1. John was just a channel through which people can believe in Christ.
- B. John 1.8 - Christ is the light ... John was the reflector. Jesus is the "source of light."
 - 1. John 5.35: John is a lamp. Think flashlight or lantern. It's not about us ...
- C. John the Baptist dedicated his whole life to helping others believe ... so must we.

IV. As We Close...

- A. John 20:31: *But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*
- B. Will you believe? John 1.15, 23, 27, 29, 36a.
- C. Will you heed the warning? John 3.36b
- D. John 10.10: *I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.*