



Light of the World

Light of the World Series

Part 1

December 4, 2022

The Gospel of Saint John chapter 1:1-18, ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The 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. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

The Apostle John, in his Gospel text contends against the darkness by his writing of the Gospel of Saint John. John speaks a great deal about the Light coming into the world and it was this light, the Word, that was manifest from the beginning. This light would be far more than a prophetic declaration or future omen; it would be far more than that.

This light was more than just a miracle; this light was the very son of man, the son of God. In Isaiah chapter 9, the Text states that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

When the Prophet Isaiah penned these prophetic words, I would dare to suggest that he truly had no idea just how profound what he was speaking of would be when his sacred words came to pass.

Those who walked in darkness will see a great light and the land of deep darkness shall be illuminated with the light of life. This prophetic utterance was pronounced somewhere in the time frame of 740-701B.C.; some 700 years before Christ would be born of the virgin womb of Mary.

You see, this light that Isaiah prophetically spoke about was made manifest through Christ, the very Word of God made flesh which is what the Apostle John was speaking of in The Gospel of Saint John Chapter 1!

And it was this light that held the power to dispel darkness and restore a fallen humanity from the degradation of sin to the heights of holiness through Christ Jesus our Lord! And it is this light that I am here to testify of today! Thus point #1...

1. The Light of the World was Sent to Illuminate the Darkness of Men's Hearts to Draw Them unto Repentance!

- a. John 3:19-21, “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. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”
- b. Christian! It is our duty to be a bearer of the Light and a testament of the Light that is found in Christ! The Light of Christ exposes deeds but it also expels darkness and in this darkened age in which we all are living, there is a demand, a need, a desire of that Light being bore witness of as well as demonstrated in the Earth! Church family, the World needs what is inside of us! And as the old kids’ song goes, “This little light of mine! I’m gonna let it shine!”
- c. We should let it shine in spite of the wickedness of this present age. We should let it shine in spite of the hatred that is around us! We should let it shine in spite of the oppression and aggression from a society that hates the light of the Gospel! Dear Hearts, it is time to Shine for Christ! Listen to the Words of the Apostle Peter found in....

- d. 1 Peter 2:9, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
- e. Church family, we are a chosen people, a priesthood unto Christ, a holy church, a possession of the Heaven and it is because of this that we proclaim His awesomeness because He has called us out of Darkness and into His Marvelous Light! And it is because of this that we should refuse to allow the society around us to dim the light of Christ that is within us!
- f. (Slap you neighbor and tell em’ “it’s time to let your light shine!”)
- g. The Apostle Paul gives us this very admonishment found in Philippians 2...
- h. Philippians 2:15, “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,”
- i. We are not called to run away and hide our light! We are called to shine our light in the midst of a generation that doesn’t know Christ and shine as lights in the World around us! Church, it is time to arise and shine for our Light has Come!

j. Remember, The Light of the World was Sent to Illuminate the Darkness of Men's Hearts to Draw Them unto Repentance and that Light us brought forth by His Church bearing that Light in the World!

k. Point #2...

2. The Light of the World Empowers us to Walk in the Light and not in Darkness!

- a. 1 John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
- b. Church family, this light is not only for others; it is to ensure that the illumination of our souls dispels any darkness of sin that may seek to work itself into our hearts and minds. Serving Christ is a byproduct of walking in the Light of His Presence thus protecting us from losing our connection with Christ and with one another. Note that according to this text that we have fellowship with Him and with one another because of the Light! And if we are truly walking with Christ then we are prohibited from walking in darkness.

- c. The Gospel of Saint John 8:12, “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- d. Note the last sentence of this passage of text... Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. And if we are following Christ then we will not walk in darkness but rather have the light of life emanating from our inner man!
- e. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”
- f. And dear friends, when we have this light that I speak of, we cannot hide what Christ has done in us nor should we seek to suppress it! The Light of Christ is the very Light of the World and that light is established to shine through us as His body! Be like the moon and reflect the Son!
- g. Remember, The Light of the World Empowers us to Walk in the Light and not in Darkness because we are called to be the Bearers of His Light in the World!
- h. In closing, Point #3...

3. The Light of the World Causes Us to Let our Light Shine in the World around Us!

- a. The Gospel of Saint 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 who is in heaven.”
- b. Friends, when we live for Christ and our lives demonstrate the Light of the Gospel, it brings Glory to the Father! Church, how we live matters. How we treat others matters. How we conduct ourselves matters. What we say matters. And if we are called to let our light shine before others, may we be willing to do so not for our own glory but rather to the Glory of God the Father! Our lives are no longer our own; for we have been bought with a price!
- c. Bear the words of the Apostle Paul found in the Book of Ephesians 5:8, “For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”
- d. And may we all today commit to walk as children of light; to walk as those worthy of the holy calling of which we have all been called. I declare to you today the same words written by the Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 60:1, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”
- e. The Assembly West Monroe! It’s time to arise and shine, for our light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!
- f. My little light / example of our lights collectively