

[scripture reading] Genesis 1:1-5 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Light was in the beginning, and it’s still with us. You may be surprised at how many times it is referred to in the New Testament. As Christians we need to realize the special significance of light – God’s Light.

LIGHT is that which illuminates, that which reveals. Without light we cannot see.

We’re familiar with the Genesis account. Let’s compare this with another creation account:

John 1:1-9 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the **light** of men. And the **light** shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. ... *That was the true **Light**, which **lighteth** every man that cometh into the world.*”

In God’s creation there was darkness, and He said, “Let there be light”. So with us also. We are in darkness, we have put out God’s spiritual light with sin. We can’t see the things of God. We, **all of us**, need the light to see God.

We have the original light. We can see things around us. But without Jesus, the LIGHT, we can’t see God.

Unlike the original Creation though, men must **choose** to take this spiritual light or not. Some do, unfortunately, many do not. What justifies me making that statement?

John 3:19-21 “And this is the condemnation, that **light** is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than **light**, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the **light**, neither cometh to the **light**, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. But he that doeth truth cometh to the **light**, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

If we choose that light, we are not ashamed of our deeds, we go to that light, to show our deeds to God.

BUT there is another requirement: We must then also show that light in us to others. My evidence:

Matthew 5:13 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the **light** of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men **light** a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth **light** unto all that are in the house. Let your **light** so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Salt that makes no difference in the food is worthless. So are we if we don't let our light shine, we are that salt without savour.. If we don't show God's goodness to others, Jesus living in us, we are worthless to God. Think He'll want us around if so? No, we'll only be fit to be cast out and trodden under foot. Those are not MY words, they are God's.

WHY THE LIGHT? For 400 hundred years no prophet in Israel, then came John:

Luke 1:79 "To give **light** to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

There are people in darkness – In sin. They must see and be led to the light, to escape darkness. Makes sense, doesn't it? God thinks so. That light is Jesus.

John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the **light** of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the **light** of life."

But for them to follow, we must show Jesus' light, his goodness, his righteousness, his reason to be praised, to others. Again, this isn't just my idea, God said so:

1 Peter 2:9 "But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous **light**."

We do so by walking in that light – as children of light, doing the deeds of our Father. This is REQUIRED of us – we must wake up and get to work. Guess who said so?

Ephesians 5:8-14 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye light* in the Lord: walk as children of **light**: (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the **light**: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee **light**."

We are light "in" the Lord and must walk as such. Do you see what light is – "Whatever doth make manifest", whatever shows something, is light. This is what we need to do. It is what we need to BE.

By our doing this we show the right way to those who want it, and also reprove those who are not desiring God's light. The purpose of the reproof is to wake them that sleep – those that are ignorant of God, that are dead, so they also will come to the light.

This is necessary for us to do, even if people won't listen. The reproof we give by letting our light shine, is that on Judgment day, they will know they had the opportunity to come to the light – but did not. But the time for us to do this is NOW!

Romans 13:11 "And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the

day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.”

How is light armor? Armor blocks an enemies' attack. What was Jesus' defense against the devil? – “It is written!”. YOU must use that armor! – YOU must put on the light! – YOU must wear Christ! To be in Him, to walk in Him to have the confidence of His power::

1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is **light**, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the **light**, as he is in the **light**, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

Wearing that armor, that light of Christ, we protect ourselves and also show it to others. **We must have confidence to walk in that light, we must move forward:**

John 12:35-36 “Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the **light** with you. Walk while ye have the **light**, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have **light**, believe in the **light**, that ye may be the children of **light**.”

How do we have this light today? Just as David did...

Psalms 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

And as we've been told in the New Testament:

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a **light** that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Again, LIGHT is that which illuminates, that which reveals – God's Word does that for us. And when that day comes, we'll find that the spiritual light is better than the physical: He said He has gone to prepare for us a place:

Revelation 21:23-24 “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did **lighten** it, and the Lamb *is* the **light** thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the **light** of it:

Do you want to go to that place? You need to let your light shine, but to do that you must first have that light:

John 1:4 “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

We must be in him – and follow him, that's repentance leaving our life to follow him.

John 8:12 “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

The light of life, leading us to heaven:

Revelation 22:1-5 “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither **light** of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them **light**: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

West Columbia church of Christ, Ed Kelleher 9/11/2016