

True Light

Isaiah 9: 2; 60: 1-2

John 1: 1-5,9; 8: 12

What do all the readings today have in common? They all talk of light, the honest to goodness real light, not the artificial light we are accustomed to. Most of the light we are subjected to is a form of artificial light, because we spend most of our lives indoors, and we depend on light produced by various types of bulbs.

God said “let there be light”, God speaks and it happens, He said light and there is light; God’s Word gives light and Jesus gives light to the world. Jesus, the Light of the world, came to shine His Light and show-up peoples sins, but the truth is we prefer darkness to light.

I’ll talk about darkness first and darkness is the opposite of light, darkness is where light isn’t, therefore spiritual darkness can be described as the lack of spiritual light. The NT gives several examples of spiritual darkness in our lives: it says men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil, and also their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

It seems people would rather stay in the darkness of a broken relationship with God than seek His

light. That's part of our sinful nature that lives in us; it's rebellious attitude says: I would rather walk the way I want, rather than the way God wants. Darkness conceals the reality of our standing before God, 90% of all violent crimes occur after sundown---why? Because darkness hides what people are doing and the same is true in spiritual darkness. Light reveals and the Bible tells us that God has a plan for each of us to walk; God's plan is like a light showing us where to head, but darkness will allow us to remain in spiritual denial. Proverbs 4 says "the way of the wicked is like darkness."

Now let's consider light, we said darkness is the absence of light, but light is a little bit different. Just a minnoot amount of light dispels a greater amount of darkness, light breaks darkness. Spiritual light breaks spiritual darkness and the NT tells us that Jesus is the Light that has dawned on those walking in the land of the shadow of death. Jesus recognized this fulfillment and said: "I am the Light of the world", and John 1:9 informs us that this true Light is available to everyone, this true Light gives light to every man who comes into the world.

And God said: "let there be light" and the passage further says "darkness covered the face of the deep". We are formless without the creative and

saving work of God in our lives, but we are also in darkness. In the dark we all know we wander around and can get hurt, in spiritual darkness we wander around in sin and that is more dangerous than a fall. God speaks and there is light and He is the only source of light for us, the light God speaks into being can dispel darkness, and only that light can shine in darkness and not be overcome by darkness: of course that light is Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Light is essential for life to exist, without light plants, animals and mankind would be left in a state of darkness; man in his fallen state exists in spiritual darkness and ignorance, but Jesus, as the Light of the world, brings light and life to the spiritual body of mankind.

Light was created before the plants and animals because they need light to survive and also to see. For us to survive our sins and darkness, we need light to be shed on them; Jesus as the Light of the world, does that and lights the way to eternal life. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He fills us with light; as He said, "I am the Light of the world" and when we follow Him, we don't walk in darkness, but in light.

Listen to John 8:12 again; "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in

darkness, but have the light of life.” Do you see some elements or principles in that passage?

How about the character of light? It is bright and obvious because when we see light, we don't need further confirmation, since we know it's light. Jesus as the Light of the world is bright and obvious since He is the brightness of God's glory. The source of the light is known from the works Jesus did and should be obvious to us. Light is virtually unlimitable as light shines great distances in the dark, and the Light of Jesus is unlimitable in our lives if we allow it free course in our lives. In order to block light, there must be something thick, solid, and impenetrable; we can make our hearts that way so that God's Light can't get in.

Another element in the passage is the action of light. Light dispels darkness and reproveth darkness just as Jesus' teachings do; light illuminates both good and bad objects just as Jesus did in His life. Light enables sight because without light we are blind, but Jesus gives light and sight to the spiritually blind.

The last element or principle in the John 8:12 passage is the extension of light. Jesus is the Light of the world and therefore He is available to the whole world, this presupposes that the world is in darkness apart from Him. This phrase

highlights Jesus' role as the Messiah and the Son of God; the OT indicates that the coming age of Messiah would be a time when the Lord would be a light for His people, as well as for the entire world. The words light and life go hand in hand, as far as John is concerned, light and life have special significance in relationship to Jesus Christ, Who is also the Word.

In 1John1:5, John emphasizes that light refers to biblical truth and also holiness or purity. Though some have chosen to worship the sun in the sky for the light it brings to us, Jesus is the source of light for that sun; He is the Light of the world, and to the world. He is to be worshipped for the eternal light and life He brings our souls, as well as the temporal light and life during our stay on the earth.

Since Jesus gives us that light, what are we to do with it? Jesus expects us to reflect that light to others and become a light for others.

Let me finish with a story: a lighthouse keeper worked a rocky stretch of coastline and he received a fresh supply of oil for his beacon light, in order to keep it burning. Since his lighthouse wasn't far from shore, he would have visitors and they would ask for some oil for heating and to use in lamps; he tried to please the requests and granted them all. Toward the end of the month he

noticed his supply of oil was getting low, and soon it was gone and the beacon light went out. That very night several ships were wrecked and people were killed; the keeper was repentant and had excuses why the beacon went out, but the authorities replied that he was given the oil for one purpose only--- to keep the light burning.

We should not waste our light, it is to shine brightly for all to see, it is our duty to stand out as light into a dark world, for the glory of God.

AMEN.