

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

VII. From Darkness to Light.

*6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. – 2 Corinthians 4:6*

We saw from the opening chapters of Genesis that God created man to worship Him and enjoy a perfect relationship with his Creator. God, who is supremely glorious, made man in His image to reflect His glory. Unfortunately, man eventually fell into sin through his disobedience, and consequently, his perfect relationship with God was destroyed. As a result, all people have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). God promised that the consequence of disobedience would be death, and through Adam's sin, death entered into the world (Rom. 5:12).

Because God is a just and perfect Judge, He must deal with the sins we committed against Him. Our sin is ultimately spiritual defiance. Rather than acknowledging Him as God and offering worship, we choose instead to live for ourselves independently of Him. Instead of trusting God to help us correctly interpret our being and environment according to His truth, we seek to think apart from Him. It is no surprise that we misinterpret everything because of our sin-seared minds and we seek to understand it by our own insight without the revelation of the one who made it!

God understands that our sin renders us completely helpless. Our sin has affected our minds such that we cannot come to correct conclusions about our lives, but it also leaves us absolutely incapable to correct the problem. We live sinful lives in rebellion against the God of the universe and our sin makes it impossible for our lives to be pleasing to Him (cf. Heb. 11:6). There is a judgment of eternal condemnation that comes as a result of our rebellion, and each of us is fully deserving of it.

Seeing man in his helpless state, God acted out of love to provide a means of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. He sent Jesus into this world to save sinners by dying on the cross. Jesus became fully man to identify with sinful men, but He remained fully God to adequately and powerfully pay for man's sin. When He died on the cross, He stood in our place and bore the wrath of God upon Himself on our behalf. He died the death we deserved so that we could live. When after three days He rose from the dead, He proved once for all that sin and its curse were beaten and that He certainly accomplished what He said He came to do – to reconcile sinful men to God according to the will of the Father.

It was a tremendously costly sacrifice for Him, but Jesus willingly went to the cross because of the great love with which He loved us. This salvation not only brought us into right relationship with God, but it also restored us that we might live for Him. Jesus came as the light of the world to illumine the darkness. Before we were utterly blinded by our sin, but Christ shined a light in our hearts to see the truth. In saving us, Jesus opened our eyes to be able to see true knowledge (cf. Col. 3:10). We are dependent on God's revelation to us in His Word, but because of Christ and with the Spirit's help we are able to understand rightly ourselves and our environment.

Richard Pratt: "Believers in Christ are being restored according to the original character of the image of God. They are given righteousness, holiness, and true knowledge, all of which were lost in the fall. Special notice must be given to the fact that restoration by regeneration does not include merely some portion of man. It involves his whole character, even his thinking processes."[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Consider the following passages from the Gospel of John about the light of Christ.

a. John 1:4-9 describes Jesus as the true light. How does this serve as an appropriate metaphor for Jesus?

b. Read John 3:19-21. What are the two responses of people to the light?

c. According to John 8:12, to whom will Jesus give the "light of life"?

d. Read about the miracle of Jesus' healing the blind man in John 9. How does this miracle illustrate the truth that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12)?

e. What was Jesus' petition to the crowd in John 12:35-36?

f. Why are people incapable of seeing the light of Christ (John 12:37-40)?

**God Is Light**

Throughout Scripture, God is revealed as light. This metaphor may not be easily understood because of its different nuances. Looking at the wider context of Scripture, the metaphor of light can refer to:

1. The essence of God – Psalm 104:1-2; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Rev. 21:23; 22:5.

2. The source of life being God – Psalm 36:9; 56:13; John 1:4-5; 8:12.

3. The truth of God – 1 John 1:5-10.

4. The moral goodness and holiness of God – Isaiah 5:20; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:7-14.

2. When the Apostle Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, why did Jesus send Paul to the Gentiles (Acts 26:18)?

3. Write out 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.

According to this passage, what is the problem with man and how has God solved that problem?

John MacArthur: "The god of this world or age is Satan, (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:26; 1 John 5:19), who controls the ideologies, opinions, hopes, aims, goals, and viewpoints current in the world (cf. 2 Cor. 10:3-5). He is behind the world's systems of philosophy, psychology, education, sociology, ethics, and economics."[[2]](#footnote-2)

4. Even though believers have been redeemed and renewed, we still battle the presence of sin in our lives. In other words, though we have been brought from darkness to light, we can still choose to think and live in disobedience to God's revelation. What do these following passages say about our continued battle against sin?

a. Romans 12:2.

b. 1 John 2:15.

c. Ephesians 6:10-18.

5. Though we continue to battle against temptation and sin in our lives, what assurances do believers have for ultimate victory in Christ?

a. John 10:27-30.

b. Romans 8:28-39.

c. Hebrews 4:15-16.

d. 1 Corinthians 15:52-58.

**"My Hope Is in the Lord"**

My hope is in the Lord

Who gave Himself for me,

And paid the price of all my sin at Calvary.

*For me He died, For me He lives*

*And everlasting life and light He freely gives.*

No merit of my own

His anger to suppress,

My only hope is found in Jesus' righteousness.

And now for me He stands

Before the Father's throne,

He shows His wounded hands, and names me as His own.

His grace has planned it all,

'Tis mine but to believe,

And recognize His work of love and Christ receive.

Thoughts for Application:

1. Write out the gospel message in your own words. Be sure to think through a) who God is, b) how we have sinned against Him, c) what Christ has done for us, and d) how we should respond to God's call.

2. What circumstances and people did God use in your life to bring you to saving faith?

3. What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?

4. What does it mean that in Christ we have been brought out of darkness into the light?

5. Though we are children of light (Eph. 5:8), we still battle the temptations of the flesh and sin in our lives. What assurances are we given in Scripture that God will help us persevere to the end?

1. Ibid., 40. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John Macarthur, *2 Corinthians*, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody, 2003), 132. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)