

Light Up Our World

Christmas 2020 Mark Beard

Text: John 1:1-5

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Introduction

“The metaphor of light makes sense only against a background of darkness. In the Bible, darkness is a rich metaphor that points to a double reality. In one sense, darkness points to the simple fact of human ignorance. Those who are in the dark are those who lack knowledge. To the Jewish mind, this metaphor had particular application to the Gentile world—a world that had not received the grace of God through the revelation of the Torah, the prophets and the written revelation of God. Even today, we know untold millions still dwell in deep darkness, having never heard about the one true God or of Jesus Christ, His only Son.

“In a second sense, darkness refers to evil and willful blindness. This points beyond the mere fact of simple ignorance. In this sense, darkness refers to the fact that many will reject the light. As John explained, ‘He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came into His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.’

“This is hard to believe—the Son of God took on human flesh and came to live among sinful humanity, but the vast majority did not recognize Him for who He is.

However, for those who look for Him and have accepted Him, consider the *means* through which God has brought light and life into our world.

- I. **The Eternal One Came into A Temporary World to Do an Eternal Work (V.1-2).**
- II. **The Creator Took the Form of His Creation and Lived Among Us to Make His Light and Life Real to Us (V.3)**
- III. **The Source of Life Came to Bring Eternal Life to Those Facing Eternal Death (V.4).**
- IV. **The Eternal Light Came to Dispel Darkness from Our Dark World (V.5).**

Conclusion

The fact that we have benefited from receiving God's gift of life and light through Jesus Christ leaves us with the awesome responsibility of reflecting the light to the world lost in darkness. We are, in part, the *means* by which God chooses show the world the reality of his life and life.

Someone writing in the *Gospel Herald*, who had experienced engine trouble while traveling, described an experience they had,

"We stopped at a garage just at dusk one evening. Something about the engine needed attention. A mechanic examined into the trouble while a helper stood by, directing the beams of a powerful flashlight into the recesses under the hood. Something attracted the helper's attention. He turned away and in doing so inadvertently turned off the light. The mechanic looked up, and with good-humored impatience exclaimed: "Shine your light! What are you here for anyway?" Something to think about in that sentence.