

The Light

What exactly does the “Light” metaphor mean in scripture?

Why did God create light and darkness? To reflect Himself! Even the lost man can see God’s reflective power and grace in the light he provides faithfully every day.

Isaiah 45:6-7 - “That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting, that there is none besides me! I am the Lord and there is no other; I form light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.”

Psalms 19:1-2 - “The heavens declare the glory of God; and His firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.”

Jesus Christ our Lord dwells in unapproachable light.

1 Timothy 6:16 – “Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power.”

Since Jesus Christ’s ascension, no man has seen Him nor can they see Him but the whole world will be illuminated by His return at the Second Advent.

Matthew 24:27 – “For as the lighting comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Revelation 1:7 – “Behold He is coming with clouds and every eye will see Him”

Jesus Christ is the manifest person of the Godhead and is called “light”.

John 8:22 – “I am the light of the world, He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

The Gospel is called “Light” since it deals with Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – “But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, the image of God, should shine on them.”

Light always reminds us of God’s character and God’s grace.

Psalm 27:1 - “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall, I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?”

You are a point of light to the unbeliever! (Enlightening him is your objective in witnessing)

John 8:12 - “Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

This why God left you here after your salvation. Your job is to reflect the light of Christ through the Gospel.

Principle: You are the light offering hope. This church is a lighthouse offering truth to a nation walking in darkness.

You know God has an individual plan for each of our lives including you and me. He puts things in our pathway so doors may open for us. So, we might fulfill His plan for our lives. But there is one part of that plan that is true for all of us and that is re-presenting the Lord Jesus Christ to the world. It’s called witnessing. Wherever and however we can do that to re-present the Lord Jesus Christ and if that is not a priority then you will miss opportunity after opportunity after opportunity, because your mind is somewhere else.

The definition of Darkness is absent of truth. You are light...you are a source of truth.

Listen to our Lord's words:

John 1:3-5 - "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. **Vs.4:** In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. **Vs.5:** and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness overcame it not."

John 9:5 - "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

The Greek word for "light" is "phos" – "An illuminating force"; "to shine"; to make manifest"

Darkness – "scotia" – "metaphorical use of ignorance of divine things; darkness

If there's darkness there's an absence of truth. You know why some won't go to church? The light exposes the truth and they like living the lie. It's all smoke and mirrors. Without light there are no absolutes. We don't like absolutes.

Jesus Christ reflected God's glory. How did He do it? He didn't shine like a **lightbulb**. By the truth He spoke. He was truth and truth exposes **darkness**. Jesus Christ brought truth. He said, "**The truth will set you free.**" What is truth? (As our Pastor has taught us it's: ("aletheia"). It's the Word of God you have in your soul and it is the **light** that draws men to Christ. When you believe in Jesus Christ you're actually moving from blindness (**darkness**) of soul to see your condition. When a person is convicted to be saved what happens? He hears truth and for the first time in his life he sees himself as he really is. Truth illuminates him...I'm lost, I'm going to hell, I need to be saved. I need to be rescued or delivered. That's why Jesus Says, "**I am the light of the world. He that follows me will not walk in darkness**". **He'll have the light of life**".

The light of His life was the truth He spoke. Believing in Christ is moving from blindness of soul to seeing your condition and your future choices.

These words our Lord spoke were a descriptive analogy of His life and ministry.

1. The unbeliever walks in **darkness** because he has no truth. Who gives him light? We do as believers. We are the light to a dead and dying world. You are the **light** and unless you give him the truth, he can't see his real condition.

2. The **light** of the world is a repulsion to the unbeliever because it exposes his folly.

John 3:20 – “For everyone who does evil hates the **Light** and does not come to the **Light** for fear that his deeds will be exposed”.

3. Believing in Christ is preceded by the Holy Spirit turning on the **light**.

John 16:8 – “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;”

4. Man must realize he is lost before he can be saved. Guess what you are the **light** that enlightens the unbeliever. What do I mean? You give him the gospel information you are the person who helps him understand he is in need of a Savior. Unless you walk in and shine the **light**, he doesn't know what's going on.

5. You are the **light** of God used by the Holy Spirit to illuminate the lost man's vision. We were blind to the truth before and then we saw the **light**. Arrogance is in total blindness to God's grace plan. An arrogant person doesn't want the **light** or the Word of God. He doesn't want to be exposed to the **light**. He hates the **light** because it exposes the lie, he is living. If you're living the lie you don't want to come to Bible class because it exposes you for what you really are and when we get exposed, we think others can see it and that's called guilt. In reality no one else can see.

Matthew 5:14 – “You are the **light** of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **Vs.15**: Neither do men **light** a lamp and put under a bushel, but on a lampstand, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. **Vs16**: Let your **light** so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is heaven.”

6. Light is used to portray the Word of God in your soul.

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

7. The Word of God in your soul is the battery that produces the light.

8. Lost men are drawn to your **light** just as a bug to **light** or a lost traveler to a **light** in a house. You represent hope...Jesus Christ said these words about John. **John 5:35 – “He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.”**

9. You expose the unbeliever to the dangers of rejecting Christ. What are the ramifications of not accepting Jesus Christ and walking in darkness? Eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

John 3:3 – “Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:36 - “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

10. You can extinguish your light by being out of fellowship and walking in the darkness with other lost folks. If you're out of fellowship. If you're grumbling or complaining you're not going to reflect the light. If you're worried about yourself the lights out in your soul. Are you in fellowship with Jesus Christ or have you quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit with unconfessed sin in your life. Are you full of anger, bitterness, and self-pity and living your life behind smoke and mirrors? In 1 John 1:6 it says, **“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;”**

When you're out of fellowship with God and you're not applying what you've learned and have stored in your soul no one is going to get anything out of observing your life except saying, “I don't want to be like him, he's miserable”.

Paul says it best in **Philippians 2:14-15 – “Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world”.**

You can be a great witness with your life if your light is shining and not extinguished. How do you keep your light lit? Stay filled with the Holy Spirit and spiritual advance.

11. We are a light to our children!

12. Light expels darkness. John 12:46 – “I have come a Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

If you were driving down a dark country road and turned off the lights in your car that's like being out of fellowship. It's pitched black. Then turn the headlights back on that's like “rebound” (1 John 1:9) Every time you rebound; you're turning on the lights. You're getting out of the darkness right back into the light. By the way I'm an expert at this. want to keep the light on! That's why we grow in grace. The more we learn the brighter the light. Some of you are a brilliant light. I want to be a bright light, so my children, grandchildren and friends see truth in me!

13. Light identifies danger. Psalm 119:105 – “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Did you know trees in the woods lay down at night? They stand up in the day but lay down at night. If you walk through the woods at night without a light, you'll trip over all the trees that have fallen. But if you have a flashlight you can shine it in front of you as a light for your path and you won't trip or stumble. It will be light on your path and you can identify the danger. Well the Word of God is a light in my path and a lamp at my feet. What does this mean?

It means as I move through life truth illuminates the way. I see God's plan unfold before me because of what I learn at Bible class, because of what I've learned from my Pastor. I'm being illuminated and now I'm able to enlighten others.

13. Light comforts. Psalm 27:1 – “The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall, I fear? The Lord is my defense of my life; Whom shall I dread”.

The Lord Jesus Christ is my **light** and he is your **light**. You have nothing to be afraid of...nothing! The Bible says, **“Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world”**.

You are mandated to put on the **“armor of light”**. Paul wrote about it in Romans 13:12 – **“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”**.

What is this? Let’s look a little further in Verse 14. Paul tells us what it is.

Vs.14: **“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust.”**

It’s occupation with Jesus Christ. It’s you putting on the armor of Christ. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ, it’s because you’ve come to know Him through His word. Paul says it best in Philippians 1:21 – **“For me to live is Christ and to die well that’s just profit”**.

How do I put on Christ? How do I put on the armor of Christ? It’s nothing more than you being occupied with Jesus Christ. What motivates you to continue the advance? It’s your personal love for Jesus Christ.

Every time you attend Bible Class and every time you study the Word of God you are putting on Jesus Christ.

Did you know that part of God’s plan for you includes your ambassadorship. You are an ambassador. You represent Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. The truth you have in your soul is the **light** that shines into the darkness.

2 Corinthians 5:20 – **“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”**

People are drawn to **light** and there are people today who are drawn to the **light**. They are looking for answers. Paul said, **“He was an ambassador in bonds”** in Ephesians 6:20.

You are His ambassador. His representative. You don't belong to yourself. You've been purchased. You've been bought out of the slave market of sin. Do all things (everything) for His interest.

The light of the gospel has been entrusted to us. God has entrusted the Gospel to you and me.

Daniel 12:3 – “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

How do you reflect God's love? Re-present Jesus Christ to your friends? We're supposed to be a “light”.

Luke 15:7 - “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

We are a “lighthouse” whether you know it or not!

We shine as lights to the world!

Philippians 2:15 – “So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

How do I let my light shine?

1. Stay filled with the Holy Spirit. 1 John 1:9

2. Grow spiritually.

a. You must be a learner – Matthew 11:29: **“Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me”**

b. You must have correct priorities – Matthew 6:33: **“But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.”**

c. You must be willing to give all – Matthew 16:24: **“Then said Jesus to His disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”**

3. This is accomplished only by **“Growing in grace”** – 2 Peter 3:18 and renovating your thinking as per Romans 12:1-3

The end result is thinking as Christ thought (Divine viewpoint) and reflecting the glory of Christ via your life and words.

When you walk out of this door today and the only claim to fame you have – you are related to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Remember the most important thing in Paul’s life is Jesus Christ. Everything else he had was not important. That he suffered the loss of everything except the **“excellence of knowing Jesus Christ and knowing the power of the resurrection.”**

Reflect Jesus Christ’s love by living by grace and obedience to God’s word.

Represent His intent **“Christ came into the world to save sinners”** Luke 19:10; Romans 3:25-26; John 17:4

America’s light has grown dim! When there is a lack of truth in a nation like ours, the people stumble in darkness searching for a way out. In the storms of life people will be looking for a light because you represent hope and safety!

Reflect Christ – Philippians 1:21: **“Living is Christ, dying is profit...”**