

LIGHT AND LIFE
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John 1:1-18

1. Last week we saw that the Holy Spirit led John to record certain signs (proofs, attesting miracles) so that:
 - a. "...you (the reader) may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,"
 - b. "...believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30-31
2. We focused on verses 1, 14, 18 and saw that the incomprehensible and unknowable God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ in order to explain God (Jesus declared, made God visible and comprehensible).
3. Jesus revealed the heart of God; He showed that God was, "full of grace and truth."
4. In this message I want to look at the three parenthetical statements that are designed to expand upon John's three main points.
5. I am going to examine those statements under four headings.
 - a. The witness of the Creation.
 - b. The witness of John the Baptist.
 - c. The witness of the Incarnation.
 - d. The witness of the witnesses.

I. The witness of the Creation. 1-5, 10

- A. John began by stating the He (the One about whom I am writing) was (continuously) in the beginning (before anything else) with (facing, acting with) God.
- B. We do not need to guess who John was talking about because we have already seen that Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, is the focus of John's gospel.
- C. John declared:
 1. That Jesus was the Agent of Creation. 3, 10
 - a. Paul declared this to be true in Colossians 1:15-17.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
 - b. The writer of Hebrews declared this to be true in Hebrews 1:1-3.

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.
 2. That Jesus is the source of life. 4a
 3. In man the Life became Light. 4b

NOTE: Man is distinguished from all other forms of life because he was created in the image of God and consequently he is a morally responsible being.
 4. The Light shines in the moral and spiritual darkness of this present world, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

NOTE: The word comprehend means to see, or understand, but this Greek word can also mean to overpower or extinguish. Light always illuminates darkness.

D. The evidence for God is available to every human being because of the Creation, but that evidence is bolstered by the Word of God and the personification of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

II. The witness of John the Baptist. 6-8

A. There came (into being) a man, sent from God, whose name was John.

B. He was a special man with a special purpose.

NONE: John, along with his ministry, were both prophesied beforehand in the Old Testament.

1. Matthew referenced Isaiah when writing about John the Baptist. Matthew 3:1-3

Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,
2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"

2. Jesus referred to a passage in Malachi while speaking about John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:12-14

"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. 13 "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 "And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. 15 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

C. On three occasions Jesus declared, "I am the Light of the World."

D. John came to announce the arrival of the Light of the World.

E. John came as a witness, "That all might believe through him (through or because of his witness).

NOTE: The purpose of John's ministry was transformation and not just information.

III. The witness of the Incarnation. 9-13

A. The Light, that enlightens every man (with intellect and a conscience) came into the world (became observable, became visible).

B. He became visible in the midst of His Creation (possession, domain), and yet was not recognized for who He was.

C. He was not even received by those who were His chosen people; those who had been looking for His coming for centuries.

D. However, those who did recognize and receive Him were qualified by Him to become children of God through faith in His name.

E. Verse 13 makes it clear that salvation is of God, and not subject to the will and whims of men.

IV. The witness of the witnesses. 14-18

A. We (the Apostles) saw His glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

NOTE: Jesus became flesh as the sole representative of the Being and Character of the one who sent Him.

B. We (the Apostles) heard the witness of John the Baptist.

C. We (the Apostles) received Him in all His fullness, and with Him, grace upon grace.

NOTE: Next Sunday's message title is in the form of a question, "Do you have a testimony"?

APPLICATION

1. It is of utmost importance that we be numbered with those who have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
2. If we have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord He has given us the right to become children of God.
3. If we are children of God our lives will be declaring that we are.
4. Those who reject the Light will have no excuse when they stand before God to be judged.