



"In the True Light: Living as Children of God"

- John 1:9-18

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John 1:9-18 *That (He) was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned." - Isaiah 9:2*

John tells us that Jesus was "the true light." It has often been asked; "Is light the absence of darkness, or is darkness the absence of light?"

Does evil exist? The university professor challenged his students with this question. Did God create everything that exists? A student bravely replied, "Yes, he did!" "God created everything? The professor asked. "Yes sir", the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are then God is evil". The student became quiet before such an answer. The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?" "Of course", replied the professor. The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?" "What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?" The students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat; all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?" The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?" Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not like faith, or love that exist just as does light and heat. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down. The young man's name? Albert Einstein.

The text herein records that "the true Light"...(by inference we know John speaks of Christ's incarnation,) "gives light to every man coming into the world." Notice that such therefore says that this light was delivered not just to those who receive His redemption, but to "every man that comes into this world." This is referred to as "common grace." Meaning the next breathe we take as well as feeling the sun on your face, the smell of spring flowers, and enjoying the simple pleasures of cognizant life. If such a light has been given to all men, the question then begs to be asked: *why are people walking around in the dark?* And such a view is not aimed at being judgmental or condemning. For many of those who are so walking will be the first to tell you they are indeed "in the dark."

F.B. Meyer says the following: *"There are two methods by which darkness is produced. One by absence of light; the other by loss of sight. It is dark when the sun sets—it is also dark when the eye is blind. And the darkness mentioned in this verse (passage) is not the first but the second."*

If the light was brought to all men, what then separates those that belong to God and those that do not? Our passage goes on to say that "His own did not to receive Him, but to those who *did* receive Him He gave the right to become the 'children of God.'" So we see then that God did and does His part by bringing the Light, and we must do ours by receiving it. In our "receiving" of such, we therefore "move." We move from the kingdom of darkness in which God shines his light like a flashlight in a grand coliseum of darkness, and we move then into the "realm of light"...God's kingdom where our eyes can now see far more clearly and therefore understand far greater. Colossians 1:13 elaborates on this fact saying *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."*

There are those of us that are drawn to that light, ...those who finding Him there in that light "believe in Him." It is these who become "children of God." But there will always be those who choose to remain in the darkness despite the gift of light. John speaks of such later in chapter 3, verses 19-20 saying *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."*

Many such folks have graced us with their presence from time to time, and have returned then to the darkness having witnessed the light and had no stomach for it. See...it's hard for us to imagine sometimes, but the fact is, many folks do not *want* to see. For the light brings accountability and responsibility and corporate knowledge of their behavior. I mean, they want to indulge in such behaviors but they do not necessarily want everyone to know about it. That's called "shame" and we avoid wearing it whenever possible. We don't however seem to avoid *earning* it...just *wearing* it!

But despite our ducking of the light, we know it's there. We *all* know it's there. Just like John said, Jesus gives that light to 'every man coming into the world.' Paul in Romans 1 speaks of this further: *"They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools."*

Later in John chapter 8 (verse 12) we are reminded that we must actually move in this. We must *respond*. Again, we have many that will come in amongst us that we try to tell you different...that it is "all God" and we do nothing. And however super-spiritual that sounds, it just factually is not true. There must be a definite "response" to that light! Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

In his letters later in the New Testament, John says *"...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* In chapter 12, verse 46 Jesus Himself says *"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."* But what does *that* mean? What does "believe in" really look like? Well, firstly it's "believes IN" not "believes OF." The words "believes in" herein goes deeper than our natural modern understanding of such. The word "believe" means "to commit unto, to trust, to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in."

Thus to 'walk in the light' would certainly prevail upon us to seek the light at every turn and dwell where the light is the brightest. It means to move and have our living in that light. To express our passions, motivations and drives in the full corporate viewing that such light provides. Yet there are those who seek to reside in what I would call "spiritual twilight." It is that perceived realm at the fringes of darkness and light, providing the individual with the supposed ability to move seamlessly between dark and light with no loyalty or commitment to either side.

Of course, such is merely an idyllic dream on the part of such participants, because without a real love and commitment, without actual moving in that light, there is no faith...no "believing in"...no "walking in the light," therefore no true and eternal redemption. These are what I call the "grays." They attempt to reside in the 'no man's land' and tap into the sweetness of both realms, when in fact they never manage to know either one and are lost to this life *and* the next! The true child of God is, according to 1 Peter 2:9, *"...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*

We so often fail to understand that despite man's best attempts, there is not a one of us that is truly free! How many have regurgitated the same age old spiel that they do not hate God, but rather believe that he is real, but they certainly aren't into Satan either. But that they are their "own man"...their "own woman" and *they* are in

control of their own lives and destiny. Such is a patently crazy concept, for who of us is really in control of our lives? The fact is we only know "out of control." We can't determine our future, our sure and eventual death, or anything anyone does around us which inevitably affects us and our living.

The fact is, if we are not Children of God...if we do not reside in and walk in the Light, then we are therefore, by default controlled by what Paul says in Ephesians 6:12 is the "*rulers of the darkness of this age...*"

Yes...that's right...the *rulers*. Those that are indeed calling the shots in your life and controlling your actions. And the passage refers to "of this age." Meaning this is a time...a period, that will not last. It will pass away.

John tells us that the children of God "*...were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*" Thus you cannot earn such a position, nor can you "push your way into that kingdom" by your earnest will. Jesus said in John 10:1 "*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*"

John tells us that we who are indeed the "children of God" have "beheld His glory." We have seen it...we have witnessed His magnitude. Because in the Light, that which is evident is seen and experienced. Luke 13 speaks of those who are walking in darkness and in truth do not know Him but think they do: (23-27) *Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He replied, "Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' Then you will say, 'But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' And he will reply, 'I tell you, I don't know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.'*

John 12:35 *Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going."*

Where are you walking today? Are you living in the light, or is yours in truth, a life of darkness?

"Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind.

"Pooh!" he whispered.

"Yes, Piglet?"

"Nothing," said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw.

"I just wanted to be sure of you."

— A.A. Milne, *The House at Pooh Corner*