

INSIGHT

One of the most familiar and important forms of energy is *light*. Nothing is visible to humans when light is totally absent. Light penetrates and dispels darkness. It also sustains life on Earth. Without it, all living creatures would be unable to survive. However, apart from the physical light which God created (*Gen. 1:3*), there is a greater form of light: that light is God! In *Psalms 27:1*, David says, “*The Lord is my light.*” In *Psalms 104:2*, the psalmist testified of the Lord who “*wraps himself in light as with a garment.*” In *John 8:12*, Jesus, the God-man, said, “*I am the light of the world.*” The Apostle John says that “*God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*” (*1 John 5:1*)

Such expressions make at least two things abundantly clear. First, the origin of light rests with God. Second, in some sense God Himself is the very essence of light. Such statements do not suppose that God is light and nothing more, but they do stress that God is the ultimate source of all knowing and understanding. To this end *Psalms 119:105* informs us that God’s Word is a “light” to one’s path. Here the concept of “light” lies upon the perception and understanding gained when darkness is dispelled and light revealed. This concept is more clearly understood in *John 3:19*: “*men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*” Light, in the spiritual realm, exposes and provides understanding and purity, while the opposite of light (or darkness) is designed to obscure, deceive, kill and harbor wickedness.

Jesus came to give life. And that life was the light of men (*John 1:4*). Just as He is the light of the world (*John 8:12*), He calls us to be the light of the world (*Matt. 5:14*). He calls us to be reflectors in a darkened world, transmitting through our lives the true light of the eternal Son of God! It is our duty to shine forth, so that all men may see the glory of Christ! Let the life you lead be a lamp unto men’s paths!

The Life in Christ *The Light Of The World*

Key Text: **Acts 13:47**

"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

Theme:

The life in Christ is a shining light! A lively faith that triumphs in God and rejoices in His holy name! David was called by his subjects the lamp of Israel (*2 Sam. 21:17*) and he was indeed a burning and a shining light! But he knew the light he gave off was like that of the moon--borrowed light. The light that darted upon him was God. For this reason he says “*the Lord is my light!*”. Are you a burning light, reflecting the light of God in your life? Do men see the light of the Lord in you?

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. **Be a positive influence** to those around you! Be like a lamp in a dark place, offering the light of encouragement and hope!
2. **Be used by the Spirit!** Pursue the things that glorify God! Read and apply the teachings of the Spirit to your life in all circumstances! Let Him work through you!
3. **Call** a brother or sister and encourage them! Pray with them over the phone.
4. **Tell** others of the Good News of Jesus! Be the light of salvation Jesus calls you to be!
5. **Ask** the Lord to shine through you in all you say and do! Ask Him to make you an instrument of His love.
6. **Let** your love for Jesus be evident to all, especially to those in the kingdom!

May the Lord richly bless you!

SERMON OUTLINE

The Light Of The World

I. Light In The Physical Realm

A. Sustains life

1. God created light (*Gen 1:3*)
2. Living creatures created after (*Gen 1:20*)
3. Biological truths
 - a. Creatures depend directly/indirectly on light (sunlight): plant, animal, man
 - b. We learn by what light reveals to us
 - c. Affects us psychologically
4. In spiritual realm: John 1:4,5
 - a. It gives life to the penitent sinner
 - b. It teaches truth through revelation
 - c. Affects those who “see” the light

B. King David: The Lamp of Israel!

1. 2 Samuel 21:15-17
 - a. His reputation came from:
 - i) his devotion to nation of Israel
--He was old and still went to fight against the Philistines
 - ii) he was loyal to the Lord is his testimony and worship: he was never an idolater
 - iii) his acknowledgment of God as his source of light (Ps 27:1)

C. The Christian: The Lamp of Christ

1. Matthew 5:14-16
 - a. We are the light, illuminated by Christ!
 - b. The sign of an active faith is the example (light) we set forth in all occasions!
-- A city on a hill will be seen
-- A bright beam will penetrate the darkest of night!
 - c. Lk. 11:35--See to it that you are not a dark light

II. Conclusion: Faithful lamps never fade!

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:3

Warm-up:

Would you ever buy or use a light bulb that is either blown or painted black? Why? What would be the outcome? What would you do with such a bulb?

See To It

Luke 11:33-36

1. Why is it foolish to hide a shining light? What is a shining light used for?
2. **Read John 1:4-5.** What does the light of Christ bring to mankind? Who is this “light” and what is this “light”?
3. What does the phrase “*the light shines in the darkness*” mean? And the phrase “*but the darkness has not understood it*”?
4. **Go back to Luke 11:33.** What do you think the following terms in verse thirty-three represent?
 - a. The lamp?
 - b. The light?
 - c. The stand?

Seeing It Closer:

1. How does verse thirty-three relate to Jesus? What was his purpose for “shining forth”? What should be our purpose for “shining forth”?
2. **Read Luke 11:34-36.** Will everyone respond favorably to the “light”? Therefore, should we expect everyone to respond to us if we shine?
3. How is it that your “*eye is the lamp*” of your body? What does Jesus mean by “*your whole body also is full of light*”?
4. What is Jesus’ concern for us today? What kind of *light* should we be?

Getting To It:

Pray for each other to be lights shining in dark places. Pray that the light of the Lord will shine through us in any and every circumstance!

SMALL GROUP STUDY