

Walking in the “LIGHT OF LIFE”

Sunday: July 19, 2008 N.V. Hare, Minister Richlands congregation

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

Sermon Outline

Introduction:

- Light is a symbol of hope.
- Jesus said, “I have come into the world as a light . . .”
- Isaiah 9:2 says, “The people walking in darkness have seen a light.”

Jesus attracted attention at his birth through the use of light.

- An angel appeared to shepherds, “and the glory of the Lord shone around them.”
- The whole sky was aglow with angels praising God.
- A star appeared in the east to guide the magi to Christ’s birthplace.

Jesus attracted attention, as an adult, like a light does.

- Jesus said, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to me.”
- Jesus gives direction, just as an airport beacon, lighthouse, or highway reflective marker does; his Holy Spirit and His Word serve as a light to guide us.

Light is always more powerful than darkness.

- Jesus came into a spiritually dark world.
- Herod, king of darkness, died; Jesus, infant of righteousness, lived.

Conclusion: Once we walk in light, we’re never content to walk in darkness again.

- Darkness conceals reality, but light exposes it.
- If you’re trying to conceal secret sin, you don’t want the light of Christ.
- Reality is there's no hope in this dark world apart from the light of Jesus Christ.

Background Notes: I provide weekly notes for the message so members can study during the week and ask any questions they may have on Wednesday.

JOH 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

>>**The word "life"** in our text is translated from the Greek word "Zoe [dzo-ay]' which means "mere vitality, even of plants--to live, life time."

>>**Where our text says, "In Him was life,"** it must be kept in the context of the preceding verse which says, **JOH 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

>>**Christ, our creator** is the fountain of life. He is the life giver. "Life" here must be used in the broadest sense. Our creature life is found in Him.

ACT 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

>>**This Greek word "Zoe"** is frequently used in Scripture to mean our creature life, or life time as we find in **LUK 12:15** And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

LUK 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime received thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

ACT 17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

>>**This word "Zoe"** as it is used in our text also teaches us that Christ is the source of our Spiritual, eternal and resurrected life.

>>**This Greek word "zoe"** is used to teach the meaning of Spiritual life in

JOH 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

JOH 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

>>**This Greek word "zoe"** is used to mean eternal life in **JOH 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

>>**This Greek word "zoe"** is used to mean resurrected life in **JOH 11:25** Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

FOR OUR FIRST POINT, let's consider the life of Christ as the light to all men.

FOR OUR SECOND POINT, let's consider how "The life [of Christ] was the light of men," by being the example for His Church.

FOR OUR THIRD POINT, let's consider how the blood of Christ is the fountain of all life.

>>**The word "live"** here is from the same root word in the Greek as the word life.

>>**Our text says**, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men," from which we must gather that Christ is the light of not only believers, but all men.

>>**This is confirmed** by **JOH 1:9** That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

>>**In what sense then** is Christ the "life" and "light" of all men? We answer, in that He enlightens every man's conscience which makes him accountable.

ROM 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

>>**The Greek word** which was translated as light in our text is "Phos [foce]" which means to shine forth or make manifest."

>>**The usage of "Phos [foce]"** throughout Scripture clearly establishes that its meaning includes that light which Christ gives all men as a witness in their consciences.

MAT 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

LUK 11:35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

ACT 16:29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

>>**Jesus taught how** He, as THE WORD, was "...the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," i.e., both the just and the unjust in **JOH 3:19-21**

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

>>**Even though man** by nature is Spiritually dead, i.e., their heart and affections are set on the things of this life, yet they are responsible for the light which is their condemnation.

ROM 8:5-8 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

>>**All men must account** for that light which is God's law of love written in their heart, **ROM 2:15** Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

FOR OUR SECOND POINT, let's consider how "The life [of Christ] was the light of men," by being the example for His Church.

>>**Man was created** in the image of God, but since we lost that image in the fall. It is through the life of Christ that we have that true character of God revealed unto us.

>>**We are commanded to** "...put on the new man," i.e., the new life according to the law of love which is patterned after the life of Christ.

COL 3:8-10 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

>>**The key-note** of Christ's life was sacrifice, and its crown was the cross. It is by walking in the way of the cross that His light changes our thoughts, affections, wills and hearts to learn what it means to live a life of self-sacrifice.

>>**The words Jesus spoke** revealed the mysteries which had been kept secret from the foundation of the world, but the example of Jesus' life must become our life.

1PE 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

>>**Suffering is relieved** when it is exalted into sacrifice. Then we are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ wherein death brings life.

COL 3:3-4 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

>>**As we become** conformed to that blessed image of Christ we must put off that old man of sin.

1CO 15:49-50 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

ACT 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

FOR OUR THIRD POINT, let's consider how the blood of Christ is the fountain of all life.

>>**The Lord has forbidden** any person to eat blood because the life is in the blood.

DEU 12:23 Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh.

>>**Our text says**, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

>>**It is through the** blood of Christ that God's chosen people have both life and light.

EPH 1:4-9 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

>>**This redemption** is not only from the consequences of sin, but through Christ's blood His church is redeemed from the power of sin.

COL 1:10-14 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

>>**Through Christ's blood** the Father's purpose in creation is restored as we are conformed to that image of Christ, "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature," COL 1:15.

>>**Just in proportion** as we are crucified with Christ He lives within us.

GAL 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

>>**We cannot claim to** be delivered from the condemnation of the law if we walk after the flesh.

ROM 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

>>**The law of the Spirit** is the law of love.

GAL 5:14-16 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

>>**DEU 12:23** says, "Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh," yet Jesus said in **JOH 6:53** **where it says** "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you," is synonymous with

ROM 8:9-10 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

>>**If we have that** Spirit of Christ we shall feed on the bread of life, and not on the husks which the swine have left.

>>**JOH 6:56** He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

>>**Our text says**, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." This word "life" comes from Greek word "Zoe [dzo-ay]" which means, "in this life--life time."