

The True Light (*Part 1*)

John 1:9-13

Thought for the Day. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World who came to give eternal life to all who receive Him as Savior and Lord; He gives the right to become children of God to all who place their faith in His Person and Work.

The Apostle John has introduced the Word, Jesus Christ, in verses 1-5, and His forerunner, John the Baptist, in verses 6-8. Now, in verses 9-13, he explains why it is important to accept the spiritual light which Jesus brought into the world.

9 The true light...

- “The true light,” not “a true light.” Why is this significant?
 - There is a “false light” (Satan), and he and his followers seek to deceive the people of this world. (2 Corinthians 11:12-15; 2 Peter 2)
 - There are many today who claim to be “spiritual lights,” supposedly pointing people to the right pathway to God and heaven. But ultimately, they are taking themselves and their followers to eternal damnation. (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25)
- Jesus is not *one of many* pathways to God; He is the *only* way to God.
 - At least 65% of people who claim to be Christians now say Jesus is not the only way to God; there are actually multiple pathways that lead to eternal life.
 - Matt. 7:13-14; John 10:7-9; 14:1-7; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 5:1-2; 1 John 5:11-12.
- According to the Bible, Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man. (1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 7:24-25)
- It is a lie and a deception of the devil that there are multiple pathways that lead to God and eternal life!

... which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

- The Greek construction indicates that it is every man individually, not all men collectively.
- In what sense does Jesus Christ give spiritual light to everyone?
 - The Lord reveals Himself to every human being through His creation. (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-23)
 - The testimony of Creation is not sufficient to get people saved; they need to hear the Gospel!
 - It is sufficient to get people condemned.
 - It is sufficient to motivate people to seek God, and those who sincerely seek Him will find Him. (Proverbs 8:17; Jeremiah 29:13)
 - The Lord reveals Himself to every human being through our conscience. (Romans 2:12-16)
 - People who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, still have a sense of right and wrong.
 - They have moral awareness and, the fact is, no one can perfectly live up to the standard set by their own conscience. Our guilty conscience condemns us!
- So everyone has received sufficient spiritual light to be held accountable by God.

- The light is available to all, but the sad reality is, most people willfully reject the light Jesus gives them. (John 3:19-20)
- "...it means that the **Light** shines on all people, without regard to nationality, race, or color. It also means that by shining on all men, the Lord Jesus has revealed men in their true character. By His coming into the world as the perfect Man, He has shown how imperfect other men are. When a room is in darkness, you do not see the dust on the furniture. But when the light goes on, the room is seen as it actually is. In that same sense, the shining of **the true Light** reveals man as he actually is." (*MacDonald, p. 1420*)

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

- This is the greatest tragedy of all time and eternity: The creation does not recognize its Creator!

11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

- He came to his own – that which belongs to Him by virtue of being His own creation.
- His own people, the nation of Israel, the nation He had chosen for Himself (Deut. 7:6-8), did not receive him.
- Even His own earthly family did not believe He was the Messiah until after the Resurrection! (John 7:5; Mark 3:21)
- The word "receive" means "to receive with favor; to welcome." It is more than just intellectual assent; it involves the affections—Do we love Jesus?

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

- To "believe" is to "receive;" to "receive" is to "believe." We have not truly believed, if we do not receive (welcome); we have not truly received, if we do not believe.
- We "receive" Jesus as our Savior when we "believe," intentionally place our faith and trust in Him alone to save us from our sins.
- To "believe in His name" (John 2:23; 3:18) is to put our trust in His Person and Work: 1) That He is the Christ, the Son of God; and that 2) He died on the cross as our substitutionary sacrifice for sin; & that He rose from the grave victorious over sin, Satan, & death.
- "This verse tells us clearly how we can become children of God. It is not by good works, not by church membership, not by doing one's best—but by receiving Him, by believing in His Name." (*MacDonald, p. 1420*)
- Membership in God's family is a free gift received by faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- "'Receive him' implies not merely intellectual agreement with some facts about Jesus but also welcoming and submitting to him in a personal relationship. 'Believed in' implies personal trust. 'His name' refers to all that is true about him, and therefore the totality of his person." (*ESV Study Bible, p. 2019*)
- "God does not have grandchildren!" We become children of God when we are born of the Spirit of God (John 3:5-8) by the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23).

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.