

## The True Light (*Part 2*)

*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.
  - Jesus is the *only* way to God. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

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

- The Greek construction indicates that it is every man individually, not all men collectively.
- The Lord reveals Himself to every human being through His creation.
- The Lord reveals Himself to every human being through our conscience.
  - The witness of creation and human conscience is not sufficient to get people saved—they need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ—but it is sufficient to make them accountable to God.
  - The light is available to all, but the sad reality is, most people willfully reject the light Jesus gives them.

### **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!
- The loss of relationship between God and His creation has had a devastating impact! Jesus came to restore that relationship, but His creation did not recognize Him.

### **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.**

- "To become a child in a physical sense, one must be **born**. So, also, to become a child of God, one must have a second birth. This is known as the new birth, or conversion, or being saved. This verse tells us *three ways* by which the new birth does *not* take place, and the *one way* by which it *does*.
  - "First, the three ways by which we are not born again. **Not by blood**. This means that a person does not become a Christian through having Christian parents. Salvation is not passed down from parent to child through the **blood** stream.
  - "It is not **of the will of the flesh**. In other words, a person does not have the power in his own **flesh** to produce the new birth. Although he must be willing in order to be saved, yet his own **will** is not enough to save him.
  - "Not **of the will of man**. No other man can save a person. A preacher, for instance, may be very anxious to see a certain person born again, but he does not have the power to produce this marvelous birth.
- How, then, does this birth take place?
  - The answer is found in the words **but of God**.
  - This means simply that the power to produce the new birth does not rest with anything or anyone but **God**." (*MacDonald, pp. 1420-21*)
- Salvation is not the result of human effort; it is the result of God's work on our behalf.
- Salvation is a gift to be received, not a reward to be achieved.