

# The Light of the World

## John 1:4-5

**Thought for the Day.** Jesus Christ is the self-existent Source of all life in the universe, both physical and spiritual. He gives eternal life to all who believe and trust in Him.

In verses 4 and 5 the Apostle John introduces two themes that he will develop throughout the remainder of his gospel, the topics of Life and Light. The word "life" occurs 50 times and the word "light" occurs 23 times. Both of these themes reveal some significant truths about the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 4 In him was life...

- Verses 1-3 – Jesus Christ is God; He is the Creator of all things.
- Verse 4 – It logically follows that Jesus Christ is the Possessor and the Source of all life.
  - "This does not simply mean that He *possessed* life, but that He was and is the *source* of life. This includes both physical and spiritual life. When we were born, we received physical life. When we are born again, we receive spiritual life. Both come from Him." (*MacDonald, p. 1419*)
  - God is self-existent; Jesus therefore, as God, is also self-existent. He does not depend on anyone or anything for His life; He possesses life in and of Himself.
- Jesus is the Source of all life in the universe, both physical and spiritual.
  - We are alive physically because of Jesus Christ. If we have accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, we are alive spiritually because of Jesus Christ.
- The life within Christ is the very life of God. (John 5:26)
  - As God, Jesus possessed life within Himself. But in His humanity, He lived in submission to and dependence upon His heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. (John 5:19, 30, 8:28)
  - Philippians 2:5-7 – He "voluntarily gave up the independent use of His divine attributes... But the Father granted Him the authority to give life (both physical and spiritual) even during the self-limiting condescension of His earthly ministry." (*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*)
- Jesus gives eternal life to all who believe and trust in Him. (John 11:25-27)

### **Who is Jesus Christ?**

- Jesus Christ is the self-existent Source of all life, both physical and spiritual.

### **Why did Jesus Christ come to earth?**

- Jesus Christ came to give eternal life to all who believe that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

### **...and the life was the light of men.**

- Jesus Christ came to bring the light of God's life into our spiritually dark and dying world.
  - This was foreshadowed in Psalm 36:7-9 and 27:1.
  - Even the Greek poets recognized our complete dependence upon God: "In him we live and move and have our being; for we are indeed his offspring." (Acts 17:28)

- Light is a symbol for truth, purity, righteousness, holiness and goodness. (1 John 1:5-7)
- Darkness represents the power of sin, evil, lies and unbelief.
  - Light reveals; darkness conceals. Light brings life; darkness leads to death.
- Jesus Christ is God's light sent down to earth to pierce through the darkness of sin and evil in order to reveal God to Man and to bring us the gift of eternal life.
- "The Bible tells us that the life of Christ serves as a light to all people. That life is the light of truth—the message of Christ's salvation and eternal life with God: 'God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son' (1 John 5:11). The brilliance of Christ's light and truth shine like a light into the darkness of this world." (*GotQuestions.org handout*)
- "The same One who supplied us with life is also the light of men. He provides the guidance and direction necessary for man. It is one thing to exist, but quite another to know how to live, to know the true purpose of life, and to know the way to heaven. The same One who gave us life is the One who provides us with light for the pathway we travel." (*MacDonald, p. 1419*)

### **5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

- The darkness cannot overcome the light and evil cannot overpower Jesus Christ! (John 8:12; 12:46)
- When we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, He delivers us from the darkness of this world; He gives us the gift of eternal life and we become children of light. (John 12:36)
- "*The light shines in the darkness* means Jesus Christ has come into the world, bringing the good news of God's salvation to every person. As Isaiah foretold, 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned' (Isaiah 9:2). The life of Jesus, which is the life of the Creator God Himself, is the light of the world. No power of darkness can defeat or snuff out this light." (*GotQuestions.org handout*)
- "Jesus does more than give life; He *is* life, and therefore death has no ultimate power over Him. Jesus confers this spiritual life on those who believe in Him, so that they share His triumph over death (1 John 5:11-12). Believers in Jesus Christ will experience resurrection because, having the life Jesus gives, it is impossible for death to defeat them (1 Corinthians 15:53-57). . . Death has no dominion over Him who is Life itself, nor does death have dominion over those who are in Him (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). Because He lives, we live. Because He is Life, we have life eternally." (*GotQuestions.org handout*)
- Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ for salvation receives His gifts of spiritual light and eternal life!

### **Why did Jesus Christ come to earth?**

- Jesus Christ came to bring the light of God's life into our spiritually dark and dying world.
- Jesus Christ came to bring truth, purity, righteousness, holiness and goodness into the world.
- Jesus Christ came to pierce the darkness of sin and evil in order to reveal God to Man and bring us the gift of eternal life.
- Jesus Christ came to show us how to live, to show us the true purpose of life, and to show us the way to heaven.