

**I. INTRODUCTION . . . the dominant theme of LIGHT in John's Gospel**

Its relation to the Logos - The symbol of Light and Darkness  
as Truth and Error (Psalm 119:105, Prov 6:23)  
Holiness and Sin (John 3:19-21)

**II. vs. 4-5 – He is the light of [all] men and that Light is prevailing!**

A. In what sense, is Christ the "*light of [all] men?*" (verse 4)

1. He is the source of rational understanding and knowledge.
2. Man is the only LIFE FORM with the ability to commune with God.
3. Man is the only creature that is accountable to God  
*All men "show the work of the law written in their hearts,  
their conscience also bearing witness" (Rom. 2:15).*
4. This is not Pelagianism! – we possess no 'divine spark.'

*Though man is dead, he remains responsible before God and shall give an account of himself*

5. The light of men is called "*common grace*" (Matthew 5:43-48)  
Though God is angry with the wicked (Ps. 7:11), He allows them to live,  
move, and exist (Acts 17)

B. The prevailing Light

1. the Greek word, *katelaben* is a compound word -  
*kata* (under) and *lambano* (to take)

*As pervasive as darkness may appear to be, it will never overtake the LIGHT!*

2. The morning follows every evening from day one of creation
3. Ultimately there will be no more night (Rev. 21:23-27)
4. Despite the darkness, the light *continues to shine*

**III. John the Baptist – the burning lamp**

A. Why even introduce John here . . . seems like an interruption?

1. To demonstrate that John was not bearing witness to anything new.  
It was the same Light as was from the beginning, only now  
the Light is coming in the world in a different way.

a. Four manifestations of LIGHT:

CREATION (Jesus as agent)  
LAW (the shadow of the substance)  
JESUS (the substance . . . made flesh)  
THE LAMB (the eternal light of heaven)

B. verse 6 - *God sent a man* (not a sign in the skies or an angel)

Evidently God knows that this is the way to bring the  
greatest happiness to men and the greatest glory to his Son.

1. Be alert to the call of God in our lives  
To preach the Word (Romans 10:14-15)  
To the mission field (Matthew 9:38)  
To be a light to the world (Matthew 5:16)
2. You should be open to hear the witness from others who are sent to you.

- C. verse 7a - John came for a testimony *to bear witness to the light*
1. What is a witness?  
God had already spoken to John earlier about the One who was coming  
John knew his God!
  2. John's witness was manifested in **light** and **heat** (John 5:35)  
The example of Jonathan Edward's message and ministry
  3. The result of John's witness was that people repented!
  4. Is our witness like John the Baptist in its:  
Passion for unbending Truth?  
Simplicity of lifestyle?  
Humility?  
Courage to the end, despite persecution?

D. verse 7b – *that all might believe*

1. To whom are we pointing to and why?  
Is our light bearing witness to and glorifying Christ, that other may believe?  
Are we calling attention to ourselves?  
Our testimonies (what we did, or what Christ did)  
Our talents (showcase what we can do, or worship Christ?)

E. verse 8 – *He was not the light*

1. The believer is like the moon  
*though we are His witnesses, we bear no light in and of ourselves!*

#### IV. The True Light

- A. Human systems and reasoning are partial or misleading “lights”
  1. Greek Philosophy
  2. Psychology
  3. Religion and cults
  4. Progress, Science, Education
- B. We can be fooled if we only look at the outward manifestation of light (2 Cor. 11:14)
  1. The Pharisees and John the Baptist
  2. Spirituality taught as an outward act (Col 2:16-17)
  3. Remember the order – *The Light AND THEN the Witness*
  4. The law has no power over sin, in fact it insights sin (Col 2:20-23; Rom 7)
  5. Are we more concerned with Christ's reputation or our own?
- C. What about genuine concerns of causing a person to stumble?
  1. Jesus is the “real” light, He was real, so be real.
  2. Please God and not man then you will be genuinely concerned with others.
- D. If the source of our good works is not the Light of Christ within, we will rely on human effort and those works will burn out

#### V. Conclusion – Are you shining the light of Christ or of human understanding?

- A. Light puts confusion to flight
- B. Light dispels darkness and brings forth order
- C. Light exposes darkness (convicts of sin)  
*Does the Light of Christ convict you of sin or do you think that you are pretty good?*
- D. I John 1:5-10