

Sermon Notes

Text: John 1:9-13

Title: The Light That Is Coming into the World

2 responses

I. THE PERVERTED DISMISSAL OF THE LIGHT 9-11

A. THE REALITY THAT WAS DAWNING 9

The Compelling Claim- in the Incarnation of God in Christ, a new era was dawning, Mt 4:16; 2 Pe 1:19; confident, controlling
The Clear Contrast- true Light, Jn 3:19; 8:12; 9:5 vs prophecy of John the Baptist, vv. 6-8. The Critical Caution- *enlightens everyone*, see 1 Cor 4:5; Rev 22:5, a transcending, transforming light; *coming into the world*, Jn 6:14; 9:39; 11:27; 16:28, above all, 9:5; 12:46.

B. THE RECOGNITION THAT WAS DECLINED 10

His Divine Affirmation - 1:1-3; co-eternal with God; co-existent with God; co-equal with God; co-Creator with God.
The Distressing Assessment - different meanings of *world*; world has its ruler, Jn 12:31; 14:30; god, 2 Cor 4:4; prince, Eph 2:2; power, 1 Jn 5:19; etc. *Know*= recognize, understand, respond in faith to the Self-revelation of God in Christ; Song "Sweetly Jesus Boy" - "we didn't know who you was." Why? Jn 12:37-41; 2 Cor 4:4. A colossal indictment against the world.

C. THE RECEPTION THAT WAS DENIED 11

Their Delightful Status- 1st *own* = own things, domain= land of Israel, Ex 6:8; 19:5; Dt 4:20-21; etc.; 2nd *own* = people = children of Abraham after the flesh, God's specially chosen people in whom he delighted to display, deposit his commandments, oracles, covenant sign and symbols, Rom 3:1; 9:1-5. Their Dreadful Stand- see Mt 1:20 for *accept*. Of all peoples, they should have known better, known him, Isa 53:3; Jn 3:32; 5:43; Mk 6:3. Israel, therefore, a representative/symbol of the hateful, hostile world against the Light; the core problem, Jn 3:19-20

II. THE PRIVILEGED DISCERNMENT OF THE LIGHT 12-13

The wonderful contrast with darkness and the divine remedy for darkness. John's equivalent of Paul's Eph 2:4-9. All flowing from the gracious divine initiative.

A. THEIR GENUINE FAITH 12A

Contrast with the faithless- with his own people, II. Name=completeness of his person, fullness of his being. Believe, receive = aspects of faith=the differentiating mark by which we believe on Christ. Faith= the divinely appointed means, instrument by which we receive Christ, Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom 10:10; Gal 3:27; 1 Pe 3:21. **HC #65: Q: ...where does this faith come from? A: The Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts by the preaching of the Holy Gospel, and confirms it by the use of the holy sacraments.** By it, we appreciate the Light- receive in the fullness of his Self-revelation as Son of God; sent by God; Savior of/as God; apprehend the Light- grasp him not simply admire him. It is a gift of God, Eph 2:8

B. THEIR GREATEST FAVOR 12B

Constitution of the faithful- by adoption. Emphasis on: being begotten; becoming children of God; the impartation of life, so that one becomes his child, 1 Jn 2:29; 3:9. **Christmas, salvation= God coming to us in Christ, who are lost, helpless, hopeless without him.**

C. THEIR GRACIOUS FATHER 13

The Source of our salvation. The Distinct Opposites-not of human origin; not initiated by sexual desire; not according to the will or procreative urge of the man. The Divine Origin- born of God. As Christ came from above so our salvation is also from above, Jn 3:1-6; 1 Jn 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18. Recall Jn 8:31-33, 39