

January 5, 2019 - Light of the World #2 (20001-A)

Walk in the Light part 1

Selected Scriptures

I. This is the darkest time of year (Winter Solstice). A perfect time to talk about Light.

A. Which may be one of the reasons the church decided to celebrate Christmas and Epiphany (Jan 6). The end of the “12 Days of Christmas” Dec.25-Jan6.

B. Epiphany is the feast that celebrates the coming of Magi to worship Christ. Matt.2

II. Jesus, the Light of the World. John 1:1-14; 8:12; 12:44-50.

A. This is a stunning reality with stunning implications.

III. The first thing to do when you see light is to come to it. (review of last week’s message)

A. Realize that we are in the dark. We are not born in the light.

1. The “Enlightenment” wasn’t...

B. Realize that we must make a choice. Mk.1:15; Lk.6:46

1. Jesus told people to make up their minds.

2. *Endless analysis is a choice away from God. If you haven’t come, you haven’t come...*

C. Realize that the light comes with rebirth - God’s own miracle in us. Jn.3:3-8; 16-21

1. *It is a permanent, transforming, enlightening, relationship with God Himself - that He initiates and conceives within us through faith in Jesus Christ!*

D. It results in a new relationship with God and a new way of living in this age.

1. *This is our topic today...*

IV. Then we learn to walk in the Light. This is a gift and a skill. 3 Things:

A. Being steeped in His Personal Word. Jn.12:44-50.

1. Jesus equates His light with His words. **Jn.15:7**

a) 12 references to Jesus’ sayings, words, speaking, commands

b) Walking in His light = absorbing His words.

2. *We learn to see by listening to God’s Word. How odd.*

a) *Our words do not give us eternal light...His words do.*

3. His Word is first the gospel—but it is a dynamic and growing personal communication. (Heb.1:1-3)

a) His message: the message about who He is and what He has done. Jn.6:29

4. But it is also the whole Bible read literally and interpreted in light of the gospel: Jesus as the Saving Lord. Ps.119:105

B. Which reveals our eternal destiny. 1Thess. 5:4-11.

1. There is a judgment coming. 1-9

a) Judgment is coming. The Day of the Lord.

b) A healthy knowledge of God’s coming judgment is crucial to walking in the Light.

2. But there is also a rescue.

a) This increases our relief at being rescued. 10 (4:13-18)

b) Not destined for wrath, but for salvation because of Jesus’ death on our behalf.

C. And sources our knowledge in His Kingdom. Col.1:9-14.

1. Knowledge that comes from Him, and not from us. 9-10

a) Spiritual wisdom and understanding. 9

b) So that we can walk worthy and be fruitful. 10-11

2. Qualification that comes from Him and not from us. 12-13

a) There is no “self-qualification” for living in the kingdom

(1) His qualification is what transfers us out of darkness and into light.

3. Based on peace that comes from Him and not from us. 19-20. Rom.5:1

a) Reconciled to himself...by the blood of his cross.

b) God is the one who has initiated the reconciliation, making peace, when we were the ones who started the war.