



**Preparing For His Coming - Part 3**  
**Jesus: The Light of the World**  
**John 1:1-9**  
**Westport Christian Church**  
**December 13, 2009**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. (John 1:1-9)

Making decisions in the dark can lead to some regrettable consequences. Back in the days before electricity, a tightfisted old farmer was taking his hired man to task for carrying a lighted lantern when he went to call on his best girl. "Why," he exclaimed, "when I went a-courtin' I never carried one of them things. I always went in the dark." "Yes," the hired man said wryly, "and look what you got!" (Source Unknown)

Today, I would like for us to take a moment to consider the subject of light. Light is a very interesting thing, is it not? To me it is a very

fascinating thing. The last few years that I worked at O'Neal Steel in Shelbyville, I ran two laser machines. A laser is basically a machine that uses a concentrated beam of light to cut materials. Whether it was hot rolled steel, stainless steel, wood or plastic.

Not only is light interesting, we are drawn to light. One of the things that I enjoy about camping is having a camp fire. Have you ever noticed that people are drawn to a camp fire? Yes, it is true sometimes we are drawn to it because it is cool out, but I think we are drawn to it because of the light. We are drawn to the light like moths to a flickering flame. We are drawn to a fireplace on a cold evening, or a street lamp on a dark night. Light cannot be contained. Light has no shape or form. You can't hold it in your hand, or close it up in a box.

In John 8:12 "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Today, I would like to share with you some interesting things about light. The first thing that I would like for us to look at is . . .

## I. LIGHT PROVIDES ACCESS

Many of us have things in our homes in which light provides access. Some people have a motion sensor light outside of their home that comes on when they come home. Many people have remote-controlled TV or radios. These remote controls work with a beam of light to grant you access to the product. All of us have a refrigerator. What happens when we open the door? A light comes on granting us access to look around inside to find our favorite food.

Jesus said, "I Am the Light." It is through Christ that we have access to the Father. In John we read, "And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness."

John 12:44-46

While Jesus was talking to His disciples He said, "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." (Matt

10:40)

A few years ago, Ronda and I loaded up the kids and went to Mammoth Cave. During one of our trips into the cave they gave a demonstration of the lack of light inside a cave. They had all of us to stand in a circle far away from any ledge or drop off, then they turned off the lights. It was so dark that you literally could not see your hand in front of your face. Then, they lit one single kitchen match that lit up the entire area where we were.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." Jesus is the light that grants us access to God the Father.

The second thing that I would like for us to see is . . .

## II. LIGHT PROVIDES LIFE ESSENTIALS

One of the first life essentials is knowledge. Knowledge is important for us to exist. Without knowledge we would not know how to do the basic things we do. Jesus, the Light, gives us knowledge of the Father.

Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth was telling them about the gospel of "Light" when he wrote, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Cor. 4:3-6)

Another life essential is light reveals. Jesus said, "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." (John 3:20-21)

Paul writes, "But all things become visible when they are exposed by the

light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." (Eph. 5:13-14)

The light of Christ not only exposes problems and sins in our lives that need to be dealt with. His light also gives us a glimmer of hope. A poor little boy once heard his Sunday School teacher say Jesus was the light of the world. He took her remark quite literally. After class, the boy said to his teacher, "If Jesus really is the light of the world, I wish He'd come hang out in my alley. It's awful dark where I live."

Sometimes it is awful dark in our lives as well. Our day to day routines can become a dark place to live and we need the light of Christ to shine through.

The third essential that light provides for life is growth. It been said in Siberia where there is darkness for six months out of the year the children in preschool and kindergarten once a day will strip down to their underwear and stand around a UV light so that they may absorb the light. Light is very important for growth and development not just in plants but in our lives as well. (Source Unknown)

We need the light of Christ in our life to help us to grow spiritually. When we allow the light from Jesus to enter into our lives, causing us to grow spiritually, then we become children of the light. Jesus said in John 12:36, "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." In Ephesians 5:8 we read, "For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light."

Being children of the light then we are to reflect the light of Christ so others may see. The well-known Bible teacher Keith Brooks had just finished speaking to a large class of businessmen on the Christian's responsibility to be a "light" in the world. He emphasized that believers are to reflect the Light of the world, the Lord Jesus. After the class, one of the members related to him an experience he had in his home which had impressed upon this same truth.

He said that when he went into his basement he made an interesting discovery. Some potatoes had sprouted in the darkest corner of the room.

At first he couldn't figure out how they had gotten enough light to grow. Then he noticed that the cook had hung a copper kettle from the ceiling near a cellar window. She kept it so brightly polished that it reflected the rays of the sun onto the potatoes. The businessman said to Brooks, "When I saw that, I thought, I may not be a preacher or a teacher with ability to expound Scripture, but at least I can be a copper kettle catching the rays of the Son and reflecting His light to someone in a dark corner." (Light, Spiritual, Reflected: Why The Potatoes Sprouted, Bible Illustration)

The third thing that I want us to see today about light is,

### III. LIGHT PROVIDES SALVATION

We already read Jesus said, "I Am the Light of the world: he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness."

In days gone by, many ships use to rely on the lighthouse not just to guide them, but to keep them safe from the dangerous rocky coast. And so it is with Jesus, He doesn't want us to be outside of His love and safety. He has provided a way for us to follow.

"There's a lighthouse on the hillside that over looks life's sea, When I'm tossed it sends out a light, that I might see; And the light that shines in darkness, now will safely lean us o'er, If it wasn't for the lighthouse, my ship would be no more. And I thank God for the Lighthouse, I owe my life to Him, For Jesus is the Lighthouse, and from the rocks of sin; He has shown a light around me that I could clearly see, If it wasn't for the Lighthouse, tell me, where would this ship be?" (The Lighthouse, Ronnie Hinson, 1971, The American Country Hymn Book)

Conclusion; Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light that provides access, the light provides life essentials and the light that provides salvation.

Life teaches us many lessons and we can learn a lot from even the games we play as children. One popular childhood game is Hide and Seek. In this game, one child gives the other children a chance to hide by closing his or her eyes and then looks for them trying to find out where they are

hiding. Another similar game is called Blind Man's Bluff. In this game one of the children is blindfolded and then he or she has to find and touch another child. It is usually very funny as the blindfolded child tries to feel its way, groping and stumbling over obstacles that are in the way. This game really gives us a good picture of the way we behave in life. Many people go through life blindfolded, groping in the darkness, stumbling and tripping over many obstacles. Only this time it is not being done for amusement and it affects their eternal destiny.

Are you in the light?

AMEN