

The Life and Light of Men
2018-10-07

John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Nobody gave Word life (He was not created).....He has to be source of all life.

- Life went forth out of God to bring life to inanimate matter. John 1:3-4a
 - 'life' not *bios* but *zoe*...always used to describe eternal life in John.
 - So both man's biological and spiritual life come from God.

Revealing God's existence/power in creation (Genesis, Revelation) was not enough so Word came to earth to bring spiritual life and light to spiritually dead men living in darkness John 1:4b-5a

- In Bible light commonly denotes God. Isaiah 9:2; Matthew 4:16, Psalm 27:1, 104:1-2, 1 John 1:5
 - Also enlightenment/understanding, moral insight, spiritual vision.
- "darkness" indicates ignorance, blindness, sin, rejection of God's will, death, separation from God.
 - Before "light" came, the world was overwhelmed by darkness that entered at the fall

Jesus Christ the "light" revealed what was always there but was not seen. Isaiah 6:5, Luke 5:8, 1 Timothy 1:15, Ephesians 5:13

- Jesus' life illuminated our true identity without the Lord...sinners in need of Savior.
- "Light" also revealed righteousness/glory of God and ONLY "true" way to reconcile with the creator and enter Kingdom of God. Ephesians 5:11-14
 - If can't see kingdom can't receive it and enter it. John 1:9-10, 14:6

Jesus Christ "the Word" came and brought light (truth) and life (eternal) to dark, dead world.

- Jesus is the only source of true light in spiritually dark world.
 - All other religious claims to be 'light' to world are false.

Jesus illuminated man's sin and need for redemption, then made way to reconcile with God yet world/darkness hated light: actively resisted/rejected him. John 1:11, 5b, John 3:19-21, Matthew 13:13, 1 Corinthians 2:14

- overcame = "to grasp." Grasp things with hand and/or mind. Both fit context.
 - Unbelievers not comprehend Jesus' true identity, why He came and what He did.
 - Natural reason never will direct men to Jesus.
 - Lord must "enlighten, open our eyes" John 3:3

Darkness not grasp, comprehend, so tries to extinguish the light.

- Since fall, world constantly refuses and actively opposes message of God's truth.
 - Light invades dominion of darkness which then resists it, but the light victorious over darkness.....Satan, world, sin, death.
- Jesus' complete victory over darkness (life, cross & resurrection) will always prevail.
 - Verse 5 verb present continuing = darkness defeated once and for all.

All spiritually dead/blind: Jesus boring, burden, maybe good, not Savior or Treasure.
Romans 3:9b-11, John 10:10, 8:12

- Not grasp, comprehend Gospel so resist directly (embracing false or man-centered/works based religions) or indirectly (busyness). Tuit
 - Yet God lovingly, graciously pursues us, opens our blind eyes and reveals life and light of Jesus Christ into our dark world.
 - No matter how deep your darkness, light will drive it back.

By God's grace thru faith in Jesus Christ, Father unites us to Jesus and death replaced with life, darkness replaced with light and now spiritually see/understand truth.

- Our grateful response is to reflect His light and life to dark, dying world.