

## Witness to the Light 2018-10-21

### John 1:6-13

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*

*He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

People unable to seek or find God on own, so God perpetually moving toward us:

- Began with creation > forerunners/prophets > incarnation > witnesses.
  - John the Baptist 1<sup>st</sup> in line of witnesses to Jesus Christ's person/ministry.  
John 1:7-8, Malachi 3:1, Luke 16:16; 7:28
    - Fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, only one in New Testament filled with Holy Spirit from birth, last Old Testament prophet, ID'd Jesus Christ as fulfilling Old Testament prophecy...1<sup>st</sup> to point to Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ alone enlightens all darkness and gives true spiritual illumination to every man. 1:9-11

- not universal salvation but general revelation....He imparts understanding concerning spiritual matters though not necessarily resulting in salvation.

God loves and offers sinners eternal life as free gift, but men by nature reject it.

- irony - Jesus Christ made the world and yet the world not know Him. 1 Corinthians 2:14
  - "Know" = recognize, understand, acknowledge.

Rejection of Jesus Christ was universal but was especially puzzling from the very people who claimed to believe in true Old Testament God of Israel.....1<sup>st</sup> "His own" = the world, 2<sup>nd</sup> "= the Jews

- Jews should have recognized and been most eager to welcome but Jesus was not the kind of Messiah envisioned/wanted.
  - Political Messiah to deliver from Rome and provide peace and prosperity.
    - Still reject Jesus if He does not give them easy/prosperous life.
  - Religious people usually do not see their need for Savior from sin.

When Jesus illuminated man's sin and need for redemption, they hated Him and actively resisted/rejected him. John 3:19-21, 19:15-16

- Fallen men do not know that their natural/sinful response to the light (the cross) was actually God's vehicle for them to be reconciled with Him.
  - So how in a world of utter darkness, do blind, spiritually dead people come to believe and receive God's gift of salvation?

Wrong to believe can become Child of God: inheritance, achievement, determination.

1:13

- Blood: (being Jewish) not born Christian....by physical birth, ancestors/parents,
- Will of flesh: (natural desire of parents to have kid) = religious activity
- Will of man: (literally, male= decision to have children was father's) decision to live morally thru willpower. Isaiah 64:6

Become child of God not by actions of others/own but by receiving gift of new birth from God. 1:12-13; 3:6, Ephesians 2:8-9

- You had nothing to do with your physical birth or spiritual birth.....both due entirely to the grace of God.
  - Can't take credit for our faith or decision but also must believe.
    - "believe" parallels "receive" = conscious personal response.

Believing and receiving indicate informed awareness, not blind faith.

- God chose to inform spiritually blind, dead people of Gospel by foolishness of verbal proclamation. 2 Corinthians 4:3-5a, Romans 10:14-15, Acts 1:8
  - John the Baptist 1<sup>st</sup> witness, we may be last...for an individual or earthly history!
- Jesus Christ has chosen you to be His witness and reflect His light to the unbelieving.
  - Be a witness with the same goal of John the Baptist =“all might believe.”