

# The Gospel of John: Shining the Light on Christ

*John 1:6-13*

## Context

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John presents Jesus as the Word, as the Life, and as the Light. Each of those is a way to speak of the deity of Christ.

- **Word**—the communication of God
- **Life**—He is the very eternal Life itself who gives life to everything that lives
- **Light**—He is the One true illuminator who illuminates all spiritual reality

## 5 areas that are revealed from the light of Christ

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### I. He reveals the work of the gospel

**John 1:6-8**—*There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.*

#### A. Witnesses about the Light

##### 1. John the Baptist

- OT prophesied of his coming (Is 40:3; Matt 3:3; Mark 1:2-3; Mal 3:1; 4:5-6)
- His arrival was announced by an angel (Luke 1:17)
- His parents were old and never had children (Luke 1:7, 36)
- He would be the herald of the Messiah (Luke 1:8-17)
- His day of appearance was foreordained (Luke 1:80)
- Name means "gift of God"
- The last Old Testament prophet (Matt 14:65)
- Many were coming to be baptizing for the repentance of sins (Matt 3:5-6)
- He was boldly calling people to repentance (Matt 3:1)
- John rebuked Herod because He took his brother's wife (Mark 6:17-18)
- Herod had him arrested and ultimately beheaded him. (Matt 14:1-12)
- No one greater than JTB (Matt 11:11) because God chose him to perform the most important task to that point—being the forerunner of the Messiah. (John 1:29)

**Mark 1:7-8**—*And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. <sup>8</sup>I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

c.f. **John 1:19-36; Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 7:18-23**

Witness and testify—words related to fact, not opinion; to give a testimony; legal language as in a courtroom setting<sup>1</sup>

**John 1:15**—John *\*testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’”*

c.f. **John 1:29, 30, 34, 36**

**John 1:7**—*He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.*

## 2. All believers

- i. Followers are agents of belief, but Christ is the object of belief.<sup>2</sup>

**Matthew 28:19-20**—*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

- ii. *Salvation has always been a matter of believing what God has said by faith.*

**Romans 10:13-14**—“**WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**” <sup>14</sup>How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup>How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “**HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!**” <sup>16</sup>However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “**LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?**” <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

## B. Christ is the focus and true light

**John 3:25-30**—*Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. <sup>26</sup>And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him.” <sup>27</sup>John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. <sup>28</sup>You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent ahead of Him.’ <sup>29</sup>He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. <sup>30</sup>He must increase, but I must decrease.*

## II. He reveals Himself as true light

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<sup>1</sup> The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, John MacArthur, John 1-11, p. 31

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

**John 1:9**—*There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.*

A. Jesus is the True Light

True—what is real and genuine; that which has not only the name and semblance but the real nature corresponding to the name.<sup>3</sup>

**Hebrews 1:3a**—*And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power...*

B. The unbelieving world's blindness is inexcusable

**Romans 1:18-21**—*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup>because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

### III. He reveals the condition of man

**John 1:10-11**—*He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

World (Kosmos)—describes 3 things in scripture: 1) physical world 2) humanity in general or 3) the evil system dominated by Satan.

A. The depravity of man

**John 3:19-20**—*This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

**Ephesians 2:1-2**—*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

**Romans 2:14-15**—*For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup>in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them*

**Romans 3:23**—*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

B. The rejection of His own

Jesus came to the land of promise given to the Jews through Abraham, including the coming earthly kingdom predicted by the prophets. He came to God's land, to the city of David, the Land of the Temple. The Jews had waited all through the centuries for the Messiah and Savior to come. Most

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<sup>3</sup> Thayer's Greek lexicon

tragic of all was the sad reality that when He did, those who were His own people did not receive Him.<sup>4</sup>

1. *The Jews were God's People*

*(Ex 3:7; 10; 6:7; Lev 26:12; 1 Sam 2:29, et al)*

2. *Frequently stiffened their necks and hardened their hearts*

*(Deut 10:16; 2 Kings 17:14; Neh 9:29, Jer 7:26, et al)*

**Matthew 27:22, 25**—Pilate \*said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all \*said, "Crucify Him!"... <sup>25</sup> And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!"

## IV. He reveals the true children of God

**John 1:12**—*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,*

*Received*—to take hold of; obtained; grasp

- A. God's plans are not frustrated

**Psalms 76:10**—*For the wrath of man shall praise You; With a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself.*

- B. God will have His saints

**Ephesians 1:4**—*just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love*

**2 Timothy 1:9**—*who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity*

*His name*—the totality of Christ's being; all that He is and does.

## V. He reveals the work of God

**John 1:13**—*who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

**Salvation is a sovereign work of God on the dead and blind sinner.**

**John 3:3, 7**—*Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."...<sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I said to you, "You must be born again."*

**1 Peter 1:3, 23**—*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,...<sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

*Blood*—racial or ethnic heritage

*Flesh*—personal desire

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 33

Man—man-made system

Jesus will speak more on the truths of election and sovereign grace later in **John 6:36-47; 15:16; and 17:6-12**