

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

### John 1:4-9

**Introduction:** Light stirs life and darkness slows down and even paralyzes life. When the sun goes down and as darkness begins to creep in, birds go to roost, animals lie down to sleep and man turns lights on and eventually sometime in the darkness goes to bed and sleep. The world quiets down. When the sun rises the birds begin to stir and hunt for their morning food and the animals rise and begin to move around and man awakens from his night of sleep and the world comes alive again in activity.

### I. THE WORLD WITHOUT LIGHT (*Genesis 1:1-5*)

- We would have difficulty today in understanding or grasping what our world would be without light. We cannot begin to visualize the conditions of our world without the sun, moon, or stars, or the darkness and coldness, our world without life. God made light before He created life.

#### 1. The Earth Was Without Form and Was Void.

- No government, no system, no life, nothing. Nothing could have lived under those horrible conditions. The earth was a waste, desolate place.

#### 2. God Made Light.

- At God's Word, light appeared and He saw that it was good. He divided light from darkness, creating day and night. They have been that way ever since.

### II. CHRIST BROUGHT LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

- The world was spiritually dark. The prophets had been silent for centuries. Sin prevailed in the earth. People's lives were dark and void of hope. Out of darkness Israel looked for the appearing of the light. When the light did appear, many failed to recognize it.

#### 1. Christ Was the Light of the World. (*John 8:12*)

- Jesus declared Himself to be the Light of the world. Through Him people were enlightened; spiritual life was given to people. Where He went, darkness vanished, the world was illuminated with light, people who were spiritually blind were made to see.

#### 2. The Light in the Land of Samaria.

- This land was spiritually dark. The people sat in darkness. Christ brought a great light to them. It gave life to the communities. It stirred activities. The people got up from their sitting. There was joy and gladness over the appearing of the light.

### 3. Christians Become the Light of the World. (*Matthew 5:14*)

- Christ was the first Light. John was not the Light; he was sent to bear witness of the Light. Christ lighted the lives of others and declared them to be the light of the world. That original great Light went back to heaven but the light He left with us catches from one life to another. No mind could imagine the horrible conditions of the world if it were not for the Christian Light.

### **III. WHY WAS THE LIGHT NEEDED?**

- The world was in wickedness and deep darkness. Idolatry, adultery, murder, and crime of every description was spread over the earth. The people were so engrossed in sin that they were blinded to their condition. They were all gone away from God.

#### 1. Compare the Christian and Heathen Nations.

- Behold the blessings and enlightenment upon our own nation compared with that of nations who have not accepted the gospel. Atheist, infidels and all other wicked persons are blessed by the Christian light that shines in Christian America.

#### 2. What Would Your Own Community Be Without This Light?

- No Christians, no churches, no ministers, no praying, no one trying to live right. Every one doing as he/she pleased, without the fear of God. No believer would like to live in such a community. Be thankful for the Light of the gospel.

### **IV. WHERE SHOULD WE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE?**

- Everywhere and all the time. When the Light goes out, there is darkness.

#### 1. Shine Before All in the House. (*Matthew 5:15*)

- People do not light their lamps and then put them under a pot or hang dark shades over the light bulbs. The lights are placed where all in the room may have light. Every Christian should let his/her light shine to all. Do not be stingy with Christ, share Him with all.

#### 2. Shine Before People. (*Matthew 5:16*)

- Christianity should be on display before all people. It is attractive enough that all people will recognize it. The Christian should not sound a trumpet to attract people to his/her good works, but should let his/her works speak and shine for themselves. By doing so, people will be made to glorify God. They will speak in favorable terms of you and your faith, thereby God will be praised.

3. Shine at Church.

- Every Christian attending church services is an individual light. If he/she is not present there is one dark spot in the church. Vacant seats and silent voices are poor advertisement for Christ.

4. Shine at Home and at Your Work.

- One-day-per-week religion is a mockery. It has no illumination; there is nothing attractive about it. One light in the home drives away darkness, gives hope and adds to the hope and pleasure of any home. What if you turned your house lights on only on Sundays?

**V. THE DARKER THE NIGHT, THE BRIGHTER THE LIGHT**

- A light can hardly be seen under the bright noonday sun. It is just as light as it is at night but other light interferes with its prominence and benefits. A light is much more appreciated in darkness.

1. Christian Light is More Noticeable Among the Lost Unbelievers.

- A good person with many other good people is just another good person, but if he/she is with a group of lost unbelievers, his/her life and conversation are so different that all in the group will notice him/her. Working with the unsaved is a grand opportunity for any true Christian to do something for his/her Savior.

2. How To Let Your Light Shine.

- Do not try to MAKE your light shine, but just let it shine naturally. If your Christian character becomes spotted with the world, by your taking up useless and sinful habits, your light is dimmed; you need a shining by the Word which is as a refiner's fire.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Jesus is the spiritual light of the world.
2. Christians are spiritual lights of the world as Jesus was.
3. We are to reflect Jesus everywhere we go and to everyone we meet.
4. Without us shining for Jesus, our world will be in spiritual darkness.
5. How bright is your light for Jesus where you are?