

“Let Your Light Shine!”

Throughout your life you may have been taught the importance of light and it's absolute necessity to life. In fact, they go hand-in-hand. Without the light of the sun there is no life. While radiation from the sun can destroy, its rays are necessary to bring forth new life and sustain existing life. According to some research it is believed that light from a lamp can help those who are SAD—that is, those who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder. You can purchase light therapy boxes which are supposed to help you deal with melancholy and even depression.

Of course the most common use of light in our lives is for illumination. Light helps us see in the darkness or helps us see something more clearly. Illumination is huge for special effects in plays, TV and movie productions. Think of how much of your life is enhanced because of the illumination which creates your life experiences on monitors, computers, billboards, tablets, cell phones and so forth. It's unfathomable to think of cutting off our electricity source and depending completely upon the sunlight or fire for illumination again!

Everyone knows that the Source of light is God, right? Not necessarily. But

according to Genesis 1:3, *God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.* Light is actually a gift of God given to us when He created the heavens and the earth! The reason light is necessary is because of darkness. While this light God originally created illumined a world in literal darkness, such a confession of faith is based upon a different understanding of darkness and light as revealed in the Bible.

When Adam and Eve decided to disobey God's command, they brought a different kind of darkness into our lives—sin. It is that state which refuses to see truth, refuses to be taught, produces a self-serving perspective of life and, worst of all, refuses to see Yahweh. The Bible describes this sin as darkness because people cannot see God naturally. They need help. They need some kind of light to show them God and His wonderful gifts of light and life!

God sent them a Light so they could see His love. Listen to what John 1:4-5 says: *Jesus was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* The "light" God sent us people living in the darkness of sin was His Son, Jesus, the Christ. He was *the light of people* in that He was sinless. *The darkness has not overcome Him* even though the devil and the sinners in the world tried hard to do so. Yet, He remained faithful to being *the light of people* in the darkness of their sin by living God's Law perfectly for us and dying as the perfect sacrifice for the

forgiveness of our sins!

This is what Jesus meant when He described Himself in John 8:12 → *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* When we believe in and follow Jesus we don't have to live in the darkness of sin but have *the light of life* in His forgiveness of sins and power! His Word illumines our lives as the Holy Spirit guides us to make life choices differently—based upon a relationship with *the Light of the world* and not based upon the darkness of the sinful world in which we live.

So . . . if Jesus lights the way to God don't you think we need to find Jesus to find God? Where will you find Jesus?

*(Walk to each of these places and say . . .)*

- **The lectern** → Here the Good News about Jesus living, dying and rising again for the forgiveness of your sins is read to you from God's written Word. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to you through the Bible!
- **The pulpit** → Here the pastor applies God's Law to your sins, through which the Holy Spirit makes you feel guilty so that you can be forgiven through the Gospel of Jesus' Person & Work! Here the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to you through the preaching of the Bible!
- **The baptismal font** → Here you are baptized and the Holy Spirit gives you

faith to trust God's Word of forgiveness in Jesus Christ, connected with your baptism. Here the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to you by giving you faith in Him!

- **The altar** → Here Jesus gives you His body and blood and you receive the forgiveness of your sins as you trust in His promise of forgiveness in His Word connected to this sacrament.
- **The congregation** → Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 → *Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven.* People will find Jesus in His people as they reflect Him by their words and deeds everyday! They will see His light when they see how different your behavior is from the world by being humble, forgiving, loving, compassionate, unselfish, by how we talk and respect others, along with other God-pleasing actions. These are things we say and do as we serve others in the Jesus' name.

Jesus lights the way to God . . .

*(Turn on the flashlight)*

**. . . and we light the way to Jesus as we reflect Him in our daily lives!**

*(Hold up the mirror and shine the flashlight into the mirror. As the mirror moves the mirror it will reflect on others around them.)*

Faith sees and displays Jesus as the Light in a sin darkened world! 2  
Corinthians 4:6 says: *God, Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.*