

That Light Shines
John 1:1-18

January 5, 2025

INVOCATION: Merciful Lord, who is our light in the darkness, we thank you for gathering us here in your presence today. We thank you for your love and grace given to us. Receive our songs of worship and our prayers as we offer them to you today. Amen.

WELCOME: Be sure to welcome visitors.

HYMN # 201 All Hail the Power

HYMN # 203 His Name is Wonderful

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

PASTORAL PRAYER:

OFFERTORY HYMN # 206 Blessed Be the Name

SERMON FOCUS: I must see and testify about the light.

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will see their responsibility to follow and share Christ.

BACKGROUND:

The earthly writer of the gospel of John is “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” He was writing his own eyewitness account of what Jesus said and did. He gives his purpose in John 20:31, “But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” His writing was probably about 50 years after the resurrection, and John was still convinced of Jesus as the Messiah.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1-18

INTRODUCTION: My Christmas “JOY” yard light that did not work.

MESSAGE:

1. I MUST SEE THE LIGHT

- a. (5) “That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.”
 - i. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 - ii. Our Christmas Decorations
 - iii. Farm Lights
 - iv. It is never so dark that it drowns out these lights. Your view of them may be obscured by objects or distance, but the darkness does not overcome these lights.
- b. In order to see the light, I must have some proximity to the light.
- c. In order to see the light, I must remove obstacles.
 - i. Are there things in my life that prevent me from seeing the light?
 - ii. Are there things that I keep in front of me that obscure the light?
- d. Am I looking at the right light?
 - i. “But I will continue to do what I am doing, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want to be regarded as our equals in what they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! **For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.** So it is no great surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be according to their works. -- 2 Corinthians 11:12-15 (CSB)
 - ii. Do not be deceived by “lesser lights.” Look for the light of Christ!

2. I MUST RECOGNIZE THE LIGHT

- a. (10) “He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him.”
- b. People who *should* have recognized Christ did not. People who had no reason to recognize Christ did.

- c. God the Son was present and active in Creation. Therefore, He is our Creator. Do we recognize Him as such?
 - d. Creation comes with authority. Therefore, we must submit to His authority.
3. I MUST SHARE THE LIGHT
- a. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. -- John 1:6-9 (CSB)
 - b. John the Baptist's job was to testify about Christ before His arrival and at the debut of Jesus' public ministry.
 - c. Our job is to share the light of Christ now, in the dark world in which we live.
4. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).
- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
 - b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
 - c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

INVITATION HYMN # 280 Jesus Keep Me Near