

## The Blessedness of Light

August 28, 2020

Gen. 1:3 *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."*

John 1:4-5 *"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."*

John 3:19 *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

Eph. 5:8 *"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light"*

Once again, our experience of being without electrical power for a prolonged period and having to depend on light from flashlights or generators has impressed us with the effects that such deprivation have on our mental outlook as well as on other aspects of our lives. Some who have never enjoyed the effects of electricity might not feel its loss as those of us do who have become dependent on its benefits, but nevertheless, light is a normal and essential aspect of the lives of civilized people.

References to "light" in our Bible are too numerous to be able to consider in this meditation. It is revealing that the first recorded statement by God is *"Let there be light."* It appears evident that God is the originator of light, that all light comes from Him. We find light localized and manifested in the Son, who John declares was the One who possessed life and light in Himself. His was not light derived from other sources nor is dependent on others; He Himself possessed life in every sense, and that life is linked with light. This echoes the actions of God in creation; light manifested resulted in life produced as God brought order out of the chaotic condition of the primordial creation.

We note also that it is always God's purpose to introduce light into His creation. His was no haphazard action, because light is essential for order, for life and fruitfulness for productivity, and for mankind's well-being. God never intended for men to live in the dark, either physically or spiritually. Man is and would be normally in darkness were it not for God's provision and purpose to introduce light to men and to draw men to the light. This brings us to John 3:19, where we read that despite light coming into the world, it is rejected by men who are not willing to receive it. That light was not only truth that God had given; it was also the personification of light in Jesus Christ. The reasons are quite clear: the light exposes what one is by nature and reveals the wrong of how we behave. One coming into the light must be willing to have his true condition revealed with nothing hidden. This is repugnant to natural man, so he avoids it. Spiritual light is innately contrary to man's sinful nature; he would rather dwell in the dark, not knowing what he is, how God thinks of his behavior, nor where he is going. Darkness is linked with sin and all that is contrary to God's holy character, so that only those who become aware of the value of and need for such exposure are willing to venture toward the light, being willing to submit to the truth that is embodied in it.

As in creation, light resulted in order, separation, and blessing. What took place on those seven creatorial days is typical of what takes place in a soul when God's light is received. We read in 2 Cor. 4:6, that for those who have received Christ, God *"hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* Paul reminds the believers in Eph. 5:8 that *"ye who were sometimes darkness but now are ye light in the Lord"*. They are no longer in darkness but now dwell in light, as John also states in 1 John 1:6-7. Those who are in fellowship with God are in the light, and they are to walk in light. That is primarily our position, but it also is reflected in our condition of life. Again in Eph. 5:8 Paul exhorts us to *"walk as children of light."* The power of that light is to control, guide, and illuminate our lives so that we no longer walk as we once did when in the dark, but now manifest by our behavior that the light of God's Word is now controlling and enabling us to walk differently (Eph.

4:1,22-32, etc.). May we do so in order that the light of God's testimony first shown in Christ may be seen in us as we bear His name before those who are in the dark.