

Let the Light Shine

John 1:6-13

We live in a world with “countless voices providing messages that promise to alleviate the struggle of life or the questions that trouble us. We hear political and economic voices, arguing that if we reallocate or reorganize or restructure, we will build the sort of world where equity and charity win the day. Other voices are more deeply personal, arguing that the problem is not sociological but human—the human soul is in need of repair or renewal—and if we provide the right education or therapy or vision of our neighbor, then all will be made right. These prophets of our day offer services that are deeply needed and useful.

The prologue of John’s gospel is not about a message that offers hope. Instead, it is about The Message that is the only hope. It is not about an idea, but a person.”

Gary M. Burge, *The NIV Application Commentary: John*, p.64.

In the midst of our darkness, Jesus came as the light of the world. The question is, how will we respond to him? Will we reject him or will we receive him?

John the Baptist was sent to shine a light on Jesus (6-8)

John the Baptist was sent by God on a mission to tell the world about Jesus.

While Luke tells us more about John the Baptist’s identity, the apostle John focuses on why he came and who sent him.

The apostle John frequently uses courtroom terminology in his gospel to stress the truthfulness of the witnesses to Jesus. The apostle uses “witness” as both a noun and a verb.

John the Baptist was the first of many witnesses to the light that John identifies in his gospel. As the Word came to bring light to all of humanity, so God sent John the Baptist to illuminate the identity of the Light to individual people.

Like John the Baptist, we should shine our light on the message of the gospel.

Jesus came to bring light to a dark world (9-13)

While John the Baptist's message was enlightening, he was not the true light.

Christ is the true light who shines on each person either in salvation or in illuminating him/her with regard to his/her sin and coming judgment. As the true light, Jesus affects everyone.

Jesus entered the world he created at his incarnation. However, the world did not recognize him for who he was because their minds were darkened.

Jesus came to his own creation, the creatures he created. Instead of receiving him, they rejected him.

When we receive Christ by believing who he says he is, we gain the privilege of joining God's family and becoming one of his children. Belief is a relational issue, not merely an intellectual one.

New life does not come through our ancestry. It does not come by wanting or desiring it. It does not come through human decision. New life only comes by believing in Jesus' name.

Every house, apartment, business, and school is connected to the electrical grid. It provides all the energy necessary to illuminate every corner in your home, classroom, or workplace. But you can choose to live and work in the dark. Light is available but not compulsory. The Source of Light has come into the world and has illumined our minds. However, many choose to pull down the shades and shun the light.

Are you living in the light?

Have you received Jesus by believing in his name?