

"The Light Shines in the Darkness"

John 1:1-18

Darkness – darkened by sin and unbelief we actively resist the light of God

Light – all of God's attributes shining forth; his goodness, his authority, his good rule

The light of God's goodness shines from all eternity (vv. 1-3)

1. This is seen in the relationship of the trinity
 - a. Jesus, the "Word" is...
 - i. Eternal (vv. 1, 2, 15)
 - ii. Face to face with God (v. 1)
 - iii. God (v. 1)
2. This is seen in the role of the "Word"
 - a. Jesus is referred to as the "Word" – *logos*
 - i. It means more than just the written word
 1. Greek philosophers thought that there must be a divine "reason" or "word" that controls the order of things in the world.
 2. One who reflects the mind of God
 3. One who reveals God to man
 3. This is seen in the work of creation
 - a. The Word, Jesus Christ, was the Creator (v. 3, 10)
 - i. In the beginning...should make us think back to Genesis 1
 - ii. It's a verbal echo to the words in Genesis that mean "to speak"
 - iii. In Creation, all is good, there is no sin, mankind walks with God in person
 - b. The Light was the life of men in creation. (v. 4)
 - i. Jesus, revealing the attributes of God to man, was the fullness of life for all of creation.

In the midst of the struggle the light of God does not fade (vv. 4-5)

1. There are glimmers of hope – the light shines in the darkness (v. 4, 6-8, 15)
 - a. Seed promise – Gen. 3:15; Covenant with Abraham – Gen. 15; Passover Lamb – Exodus 12; The Bronze serpent lifted up – Numbers 21:8; John 3:14, 15); God's Covenant with David – 2 Sam. 7; The Messianic Psalms – Psalm 2; 8; 40; 89; The prophecies of the messiah – Isaiah 9; 11; 52; Jeremiah 23; Zechariah 9.
 - b. The light was the life of men even after sin entered
 - i. The entire OT was pointing us towards the revelation of Jesus Christ

The last word from God came through Malachi and then silence...

Over 400 years later...

2. The light is fully revealed in Jesus Christ
 - a. He makes God known to us (v. 18)
 - i. Demonstrates God's glory to us (v. 14)
 - ii. Full of grace and truth
 - b. He becomes like us
 - i. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (v. 14)
 - ii. The creator enters His creation
 1. Face to face with man (v. 14)
 - iii. True condescension
 1. "Behavior that implies that somebody is graciously lowering himself to the level of people less important or intelligent"

In the midst of unbelief the Light of God gives hope

1. Jesus is often not understood (vv. 5, 10, 11)
 - a. Even with all of these prophecies the world did not know Him (v. 10)
 - b. Even to those who studied the scriptures looking for the messiah – they did not receive him (v. 11)
 - c. Even for those of us who live in the era of a revealed messiah, Jesus Christ, we often do not receive him or believe in him.
2. The Light is not extinguished by the darkness of unbelief
 - a. Just because we can't see it, doesn't mean it's not there
 - b. It is God's intervention that guarantees belief (vv. 12-13)
 - c. God is making himself known – this is fully seen in the revelation of Jesus Christ (v. 18)
 - d. The light is the life of for all who will believe (v. 12)