

# JESUS THE LIGHT OF MEN THE SECOND WITNESS OF JOHN THE APOSTLE JOHN 01:09–13

## *Introduction*

The world is in desperate straits. It is full of darkness — the darkness of sin and despair, of sickness and death, of corruption and hell. The darkness looms over the whole world. This is the problem dealt with in the present passage. There is hope in Jesus Christ, for Christ is the *true Light*, and light dispels darkness.

- I. Christ was the Light (v. 9).
- II. Christ was tragically rejected (vv. 10-11).
- III. Christ was wonderfully received by some (vv. 12-13).

## **I. *John 01:09 Jesus Christ, the True Light***

Christ was “the true Light”. Other men may claim to be *lights*; they may claim that they can lead men to the truth. Some may claim they can...

- reveal God to men
- show the nature, meaning, and destiny of the future and other things
- guide a man out of the darkness of sin, shame, doubt, despair and the fear of death and hell
- do away with and eliminate the darkness entirely

However, such men are *false* lights. Their claims are only ideas in their minds, fictitious ideas, and counterfeit claims. Their thoughts and positions are defective, frail and uncertain — just as imperfect as any other man-made position dealing with the truth. Note two glorious truths.

1. The true Light is Jesus Christ (See *Truth*, John 1:9). What does this mean? It means that Jesus Christ was what other men are not. Others may claim to be the light of men, but they are only human. They are both deceived and deceptive in their thinking. Christ alone was the true Light. Christ is to man what light is to man, and Christ did for man what light does for man.

⇒ Light is clear and pure: it is clean and good. So is Christ (Eph 5:8).

⇒ Light penetrates: it cuts through and eliminates darkness. So does Christ.

⇒ Light enlightens: it enlarges one’s vision and knowledge. So does Christ.

⇒ Light reveals: it opens up the truth of an area, a whole new world and life. It clears up the way to the truth and life. So does Christ (John 14:6).

⇒ Light exposes and strips away darkness. So does Christ (John 3:19-20).

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- => Light guides: it keeps one from groping and grappling about in the dark trying to find one's way. It directs the way to go, leads along the right path. So does Christ (John 12:36, 46).
  - => Light routs the chaos. So does Christ (Gen 1:2-3).
  - => Light discriminates between the right way and the wrong way. So does Christ (See Eph 5:8-10.)
  - => Light warns: it warns of dangers that lie ahead in one's path. So does Christ.
  - => Light protects: it keeps one from tripping, stumbling, falling, and injuring oneself and losing one's life. So does Christ.
2. The mission of Christ is to give light to all men. Note that He gives light to every man. How?
- => Christ gives light to men through natural revelation, the creation and order of the universe.

***Psa 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

***Psa 97:6** The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.*

***Rom 1:20** For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

***Rom 2:14-15** Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.*

***Acts 14:17** Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."*

- => Christ gives light to men by giving good gifts to men. Every "good and perfect gift" which man receives is said to come from the Father of lights.

***James 1:17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

But there is much more light given to men since Christ has "come into the world."

- a. There is the *light of Christ Himself*: He is the Saviour who now stands before the world as "the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world" (John 11:27). Every man can now see the truth. They may reject it, but they can see it.

***Deu 18:18** I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.*

***John 8:26** "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."*

**John 12:49** “For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.”

**John 14:9-10** Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

**John 17:8** “For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”

- b. There is the *light of the gospel*: Christ has now “come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in [Christ] should stay in darkness” (John 12:46). The truth is that every man can now be delivered from the darkness of sin, despair, death and hell.

**John 8:12** When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**Eph 5:14** For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

- c. There is the *light of the Spirit*: both the guiding and the convicting power of the Spirit.

**John 16:13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

**John 16:8-11** When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment; in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

**John 3:19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Note that all the light existing in the world is due to Christ, both the light from nature and from heaven, from the physical world and from the spiritual world. Christ is “the true Light [the Life] that gives light to every man...was coming into the world” (v. 9).

## II. **John 01:10–11** *Jesus Christ, Rejected by the World*

Christ was tragically rejected by the world.

1. Christ (the Word and the Light) was in the world. He had made the world, and He loved and cared deeply for the world; therefore, He was actively working to help the world and its people from the very beginning of creation.

- a. Christ gave the *light of order and purpose and beauty* to the universe as a whole. The universe is lovingly supplied to take care of man's needs, and the world shows the glorious power and deity of God (Rom 1:19-20).
- b. Christ gave the *glorious light [privilege] of living* in such a beautiful world to man. He gave man a soul, the very light of life by which he could learn and reason, love and care, work and serve — all for the purpose of building a better world, both for God and for himself.
- c. Christ gave a spirit to man, the *light of knowing and worshipping* God and living forever in the life of God.
- d. Christ gave messengers to men, *prophetic lights* to proclaim the truth and to encourage men to follow God and to be diligent in their work and service to the world.

But note what happened and still happens. "The world did not recognize Him" (auton ouk egno). Men rejected Christ; they closed their eyes and failed to see Him. (Rom 1:19-32 for the tragic indictment against man's rejection of God's activity in the world.)

2. Christ (the Word and the Light) came to His own people, but they too rejected Him. The words "that which was His own" (eis ta idia) mean literally to His own home, to His own people. There are two meanings here.
  - a. The world is His home, and all the people are His by creation. He came to all the people of the world, but they did not receive Him. They rejected Him.
  - b. The nation of Israel was His peculiar home, the people whom He had chosen to be the messengers of God to the world. They, of all people, should have known better because of the special privileges, but they too rejected Him. (See *Israel, God's Special People*, John 4:22.)

**Mat 8:34** *Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.*

**Mark 6:3** *Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.*

**Luke 4:28** *All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.*

**Luke 4:29** *They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff.*

**Luke 23:18** *With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"*

**John 5:43** *I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.*

**John 1:11** *He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.*

**John 12:48** *"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."*

## JOHN 01:09 TRUTH

*“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.”*  
**John 01:09**

The words true, truth and real are taken from two Greek words very much alike. But each has a different shade of meaning.

1. “Alethes” means true, the opposite of false.
2. “Alethinos” means the true, the genuine, the real. It is the opposite of the unreal, the fictitious, the counterfeit, the imaginary. It is also the opposite of the imperfect, defective, frail, uncertain.

Jesus Christ is seen as the true, the real, the genuine life which has come to give light to every man. □

## JOHN 01:10 REVELATION

This verse gives the raw outline and supreme tragedy of revelation. (1) The supreme fact of history: “He was in the world.” (2) The supreme truth about the world: “The world was made through Him.” (3) The supreme tragedy of humanity: “The world did not recognize Him.” □

### III. *John 01:12–13 Jesus Christ, Accepted by People – Salvation*

Christ was wonderfully received by some persons. Not everyone rejected Christ — most did, but a few received Him. Note three points.

1. How men receive Christ. They “believe in His name.” (See *Believe*, John 2:24.)
2. The results of receiving Christ. A person is given the power, the right, to become a child of God.

⇒ The word *right* (exousian) means both power and authority.

⇒ The word *children* (tekna Theou) means sons and daughters of God.

⇒ The words to *become* (genesthai) mean to become something a person is not.

When a person receives Christ into his life (as Lord), Christ gives that person the power and right to become something he is not — a child of God.

**2 Cor 6:17-18** *“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”; “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”*

**Rom 8:15-16** *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*

*Gal 4:4-6 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

3. The source of becoming a child of God is a new birth.

a. The new birth is not of man.

=> It is not by natural descent. The idea is that heritage — being born of a particular family, race, nation or people — is of no value in becoming a child of God. Natural descent is not what causes the new birth.

=> It is not of human decision (ek thelematos sarkos): sexual desire. The idea is that a person is not spiritually born again by wanting and willing to become a child of God as a person wills to have an earthly child.

=> It is not by a husband's will (ek thelematos andros, husband). The idea is that even man (the husband, the stronger member, the one who is usually the leader) cannot bring about the spiritual birth of others. No man, no matter who he is — husband or world leader — can cause or make a person a child of God.

b. The new birth is of God. (See *New Birth*, John 3:1-15.) ■

### JOHN 3:01–15

#### NEW BIRTH, BORN AGAIN, NEW CREATION, REGENERATION

A spiritual birth, a rebirth of one's spirit, a new life, a renewed soul, a regenerated spirit. It is the regeneration and renewal of one's spirit and behaviour (2 Cor 5:17).

It is the provision or infusion of a new life, of a godly nature (2 Pet 1:4). The new birth is so radical a change in a person's life that it can be described only as being *born again*. Something so wonderful happens to the soul that it is just like a *new birth*. It is a spiritual birth, a birth beyond the grasp of man's hands and efforts. It is so radical, so life changing, and so wonderful that it can be wrought only by the love and power of God Himself.

The New Testament teaching on the new birth is rich and full.

1. The new birth is a necessity. A person will never see (John 3:3) nor ever enter (John 3:5) the Kingdom of God unless he is born again (John 3:7).
2. The new birth is a spiritual birth, the birth of a new power and spirit in life. It is not reformation of the old nature (Rom 6:6). It is the actual creation of a new birth within — spiritually (John 3:5-6; see John 1:12-13; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:10; 4:24). (See *New Person*, Eph 4:24.)

A person is spiritually born again:

- a. By water, even the Spirit (See *Water and Spirit*, John 3:5).
  - b. By the choice (will) of God (Jas 1:18).
  - c. By imperishable or incorruptible seed, even by the Word of God (1 Pet 1:23).
  - d. By God from above (1 Pet 1:3). The word *again* (ana) in the phrase “born again” also means *above*, (John 1:12-13.)
  - e. By Christ, who gives both the *power and right* to be born again (John 1:12-13).
3. The new birth is a definite experience, a real experience. A person experiences the new birth:
- a. By believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (1 John 5:1; John 3:14-15).
  - b. By the gospel as it is shared by believers (1 Cor 4:15; Phile 10).
  - c. By the Word of God (1 Pet 1:23) or by the Word of Truth (Jas 1:18).
4. The new birth is a changed life, a totally new life. A person proves that he is born again:
- a. By doing righteous acts (1 John 2:29; see Eph 2:10; 4:24).
  - b. By not practicing sin (1 John 3:9; 5:18).
  - c. By loving other believers (1 John 4:7).
  - d. By overcoming the world (1 John 5:4).
  - e. By keeping himself without sin (1 John 5:18).
  - f. By possessing the divine seed or nature (1 John 3:9; 1 Pet 1:23; 2 Pet 1:4; Col 1:27). □