Jesus is Light Sermon for 12-04-16

Here at TOP the whole month of December is dedicated to Jesus. We are going to focus in on Him and grow in our knowledge of His Necessity and His Effect in several key areas of Who He is.

# **John 1:1-13** (NLT)

In the beginning the Word already existed.  
    The Word was with God,  
    and the Word was God.

* **The Word is Jesus.**
  + He is the full expression of the Father and He existed before time began.

**2**He existed in the beginning with God.  
**3**God created everything through him,  
    and nothing was created except through him.  
**4**The Word gave life to everything that was created,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A1-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26015a)]  
    and his life brought light to everyone.  
**5**The light shines in the darkness,  
    and the darkness can never extinguish it.

* “his life brought light to everyone”
  + The Word brings light!

# **Psalm 119:105** (NKJV)

**105**Your word *is* a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.

* + The Word brings light; therefore, Jesus is light.

**6**God sent a man, John the Baptist,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26017c)] **7**to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. **8**John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ***9****The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

**10**He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him.**11**He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **12**But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.**13**They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A1-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26016b)]

# The Necessity of Jesus as the Light

“**5**The light shines in the darkness,  
    and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

**This darkness is moral and spiritual obscurity where every boundary is hazy and we can’t see God.**

* Living in darkness is living in a life where our moral boundaries are defined by our obscure reasoning and relative understanding of good and evil.
* Living in darkness is being an enemy of God because of sin within us and consequently not being able to see Him for who He really is—good.

Jesus’ life is necessary for light, and light is necessary for sight.

**Jesus’ light is necessary for us to see morality and God clearly.**

# The Effect of Jesus as the Light

“**12**But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.**13**They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.”

Jesus’ light, if accepted, brings an ability to choose a new father.

**The Light of Jesus brings a transformation so extensive that the only way to describe it is rebirth into a new creature.**

* Notice that there is both an event and a journey here.
  + **Simply by spiritual rebirth, you become a child of God; but that is just the beginning of a maturation process of becoming a son of God.** 
    - Just as a newborn baby is in the family simply by birth but has not developed a sense of identity, so a newborn Christian is in the family but has a way to go before he or she understands the authority and responsibility of their position.
    - Their faith has yet to be tested and they have yet to learn obedience.

# **1 John 2:3-11** (NLT)

**3**And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.

**4**If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. **5**But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.**6**Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

* “we know him if we obey his commandments”
  + The Biblical concept of knowledge always leads to more than just a mental understanding; it leads to action which then leads to a depth of understanding called experience.
* **“**how completely they love him”
  + **If love is in the heart, it will be expressed by actions; therefore, actions complete the love of the heart.** Actions add what is yet lacking to the love of the heart in order to make it full or complete.
* So the bottom line is that“**6**Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.”

**7**Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. **8**Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.

* This commandment to love one another is old in existence but new in expression.
  + God doesn’t just tell us so; He shows us so.
    - **Jesus—the Incarnate Deity—is the most complete example of God’s commandment to love because it shows God the perfectly right choosing to submit to His own command to love the completely wrong.**

**9**If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+2%3A3-11&version=NLT;NKJV#fen-NLT-30520a)] that person is still living in darkness. **10**Anyone who loves a fellow believer[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+2%3A3-11&version=NLT;NKJV#fen-NLT-30521b)] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. **11**But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

# The Necessity of Jesus as the Light

**This darkness is the perpetuation of hatred from man to man, generation to generation.**

* Living in darkness is living a life where hatred is a first reaction to any offence by anyone even fellow believers.
  + This hatred is shown in hurt feelings, sarcastic remarks, angry responses, stubborn arguments, and faithless abandonment.
    - Are you living in hatred?
  + This hatred perpetuates hatred; a.k.a. “causes others to stumble”.

**Jesus’ light is necessary for love.**

# The Effect of Jesus as the Light

“8 the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining”

Jesus is challenging your old way of hatred and is showing you the way of love.

“**10**Anyone who loves a fellow believer[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+2%3A3-11&version=NLT;NKJV#fen-NLT-30521b)] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble.”

**When we walk in the light of Jesus, we stop the cycle of hatred; we cease to be the initiator of hatred in others.**

**Instead, we will inspire others to desire the light and turn from the system of hatred that they have been operating by throughout their lives.**