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The True Light

Gospel of John, Part II

John 1:6-13

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I. Introduction

II. The True Light

A. The Witness and the Light (6-9 cf. Mal 3:1)

1. John was sent by God
2. John was a witness to the Light not the Light Himself

I think it likely John has in his mind the prophet Malachi's Messianic prophecy (3:1):
"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

B. The Light Rejected and Received (10-13 cf. Mt 21:33-46)

The Light *was in the world* – He is the One who always and at all times gives life and light to all the sons of men; *and the world was made through Him* – He founded the world in the beginning; *and the world did not know Him* – yet men refused to acknowledge or worship Him as is His due.

III. Application

A. The Sun and the Moon (cf. 20:31; 1 Cor 3:5-8)

Jesus is the Light, the Source of wisdom and knowledge. He *gives light to every man coming into the world*. While John was the moon, Jesus is the sun.

This distinction between John's role and Jesus' position is captured in our prepositions. In v. 7, John is sent so that "_____ him all might believe..." (7). In v. 12, those are given the right to become children of God who "believe _____ His name" (12). We believe *through* John but *in* Jesus.

Who are we? We are the *light of the world*. But we are not the *True Light* any more than John was; we are only the *reflected light*. Our light reflects the radiance of Christ even as the moon reflects the radiance of the sun. Jesus is the True Light.

When inviting folks to church, the goal is not to get them here but to get them to _____. If you get to church and you never get to Christ, then you will end up in hell as surely as the one who never darkens the doorway.

Our task as the people of God is to reflect God's radiance and to point people to His reality. Paul writes to the Corinthians (*1 Co 3:5–7, 21-23*)

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase... Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

B. Common Grace

1. Universal Salvation? (cf. Jn 8:42-44)

"If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do..."

2. Human Rationality (cf. Prov 2:1-9)

The Word of God is the light of men. He is the One who gives the gifts of wisdom and knowledge, rationality and understanding. Every single human being, even those who do not know Him and who do not receive Him, is nevertheless dependent upon Him intellectually. Solomon reminds us, For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding (Prov 2:6).

- a. *All truth is God's truth.*
- b. *Don't reject an unbeliever's wisdom and knowledge.*
- c. *Don't imitate the unbeliever's ingratitude.*

C. Children of God

We are sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ. We are not children of God by birth; we are not children of God by creation; we are children of God in and through Jesus Christ.

Remember that the Jews who rejected Jesus, who hated Him because He was the light, were the covenant people of God. They were "His own people" and they despised Him. God declared of Israel in Isaiah's day, *"The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel does not know Me"* (Is 1:3).

IV. Conclusion