

SERMON-BASED STUDY: THE LIGHT IS ON

John 1:9-18, ESV – ⁹ *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.* ¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.* ¹¹ *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.* ¹² *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,* ¹³ *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* ¹⁵ *(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ”)* ¹⁶ *For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.* ¹⁷ *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* ¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.*

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we learned that Jesus is the true light of the world. Why do people have a hard time recognizing Him? What can believers do to help people recognize Him?

2 People are called to receive and believe in Jesus. What does it mean to “receive” and to “believe in” Jesus? Why are both important to following Jesus?

3 How is Jesus the agent of God’s grace and truth?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **1John 5:1-5, ESV** – *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

4 According to the passage above, what will those who believe in Christ do as a result?

5 What does John mean when he says, “Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world”?

6 How is John 1:12-13 the central theme of the Gospel? How would you explain the Gospel of Jesus Christ to someone?

B **Exodus 34:6-7, ESV** – ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Romans 8:1-8, ESV – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- 7** Looking at the passages above, how is God’s grace toward us revealed through Jesus? How is His grace continuous and never ending?

- 8** Looking at the same passages, what truth is revealed to us through Jesus? Does this truth ever change? Why is this important for both believers and non-believers to understand?

- 9** How can followers of Christ reflect Jesus’ grace and truth to those around them?

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus is the agent of God’s grace and truth to the world. People have the opportunity to see God in Jesus and to respond accordingly. How have you responded to Jesus? Have you received Him? Do you believe in Him? If so, how is He making a difference in the way you live on a daily basis? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to respond to Christ, the Light of the World.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Exodus 40:34-38
Romans 1:3, 5:21
Galatians 4:4-7
Philippians 2:7-8
Colossians 1:19, 2:9
1 John 3:1