

Chapter 1

Concerning the Light wherewith Jesus Christ hath enlightened every Man; the Universality and Sufficiency of God's Grace to all the World made manifest therein.

Q. Where is God's love toward fallen and lost men?

A. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [John 3:16]¹

God's love manifested in this: That God sent his only begotten Son into the world so we could live through him. [1 John 4:9]²

Q. What does the Bible mean by "World"? Every man, or only a few?

A. Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels in order to die with glory and honor, tasted death for every man, by the grace of God. [Hebrews 2:9]³

If a man sins, he has an advocate with God in Jesus Christ, the righteous one; and he is the atonement for our sins, and not just ours, but the sins of the whole world. [1 John 2:1-2]⁴

Q. It seems the apostle John is speaking plainly by mentioning the whole world. This must not only include the saints, but everyone else, since he clearly distinguishes the world from himself and all the saints he was writing to. What does Paul say about this?

2CHAPTER 1. CONCERNING THE LIGHT WHEREWITH JESUS CHRIST HATH ENLIGHTENED EVERY

A. Christ within you is the hope of glory, and we preach of him, warning and teaching every man, so we that every man can be made perfect in Christ. [Colossians 1:27-28]⁵

I strongly recommend that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who wishes all men would come to the knowledge of the truth; who gave himself as a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. [1 Timothy 2:1,3-6]^{6,7}

Q. And what does the apostle Peter say about this?

A. Tell them that God says, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but wish that the wicked would turn from their way and live." [Ezekiel 33:11]⁸

God is gracious and compassionate; he is slow to anger, and very merciful. God is good to all, and His tender mercy is shown in His works. [Psalms 145:8-9]⁹

In Christ, God reconciled the world to himself, not counting their sins against them. [2 Corinthians 5:19]¹⁰

Q. These Scriptures seem to assert that God's love is offered to all, so that everyone could be saved by Christ. What, then, can be said about those who claim that God and Christ intended many men should never be saved; and that Christ's life and death were never intended for these men's justification, but rather would serve to condemn them, as God so desired, withholding salvation from the moment they were born? What does Scripture say about this?

A. God didn't send his son into the world to condemn the world, but so that through Him the world could be saved. [John 3:17]¹¹

I come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me doesn't abide in darkness. If any man hears my words and doesn't believe him, I don't judge him for that, because I didn't come to judge the world, but to save it. [John 12:46-47]¹²

Q. Then what Scripture led such men to believe so wrongly?

A. Before Jacob and Esau were even born, before they had done good or evil, in order that God's purpose in election could stand, not by their works but by God's will, Rebekah was told, "The older child will serve the younger, because I love Jacob and hate Esau." [Romans 9:11-13]¹³

Q. But the referenced Scripture only says that before the children were born, the older would serve the younger. The part about loving Jacob and hating Esau is taken from Malachi, who wrote them centuries after Jacob and Esau had died. Doesn't Scripture mention any other reason God hated Esau besides his own will? What does Paul say about this elsewhere in Scripture?

A. No one should be immoral like Esau, who sold his birthright for a meal, since as a result, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was instead rejected. [Hebrews 12:16-17]¹⁴

Q. These men allege that Adam's sin damned many people, even children. But doesn't Scripture say that Christ's death could heal just as much as Adam's sin could damn?

A. If one man's sin could damn many, God's grace through Jesus Christ could do so much more. By one man's sin, all were condemned, but by one man's righteousness, God gave everyone the

chance to be justified. [Romans 5:15-19]¹⁵

Q. The proves that Christ's death can make up for Adam's sin. Why, then, are some still condemned?

A. He who believes in Christ is not condemned, but he who doesn't believe is already condemned, because he hasn't believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. [John 3:18]¹⁶

There are those unrighteous who will die, because they haven't received God's truth to be saved. For this, God will delude them with a lie, that those who didn't believe the truth but took pleasure in evil will be damned. [2 Thess. 2:10-12]¹⁷

Q. Seeing that Scripture testifies that God intended love and mercy for all through Christ, is the Gospel intended for everyone, in that they are able to receive God's grace?

A. Continue in grounded faith, and don't be pulled away from the hope of the Gospel you've heard, which was preached to every creature, and of which I, Paul, am a minister. [Colossians 1:23]¹⁸

Q. What is the Gospel?

A. I'm not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is God's power of salvation for everyone who believes it. [Romans 1:16]¹⁹

Q. Is this Gospel hidden?

A. If our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are lost, whose unbelieving minds God has blinded so that the light of this glorious Gospel would not shine on them. [2 Cor. 4:3-4]²⁰

Q. But hasn't this light come into the world? And aren't men condemned because they hate the light, not because it is hidden from them?

A. The condemnation is this: Light has come into the world, but men prefer darkness. [John 3:19]²¹

Q. Why do they love darkness?

A. They love darkness because their deeds are evil. [John 3:19]²²

Q. Is every man given light by this light?

A. John the Baptist was not the light, but was sent to bear witness of the true light which gives light to everyone in the world. [John 1:8-9]²³

Q. Does this light discover everything?

A. Everything the light shines on is made visible, and everything it shines on becomes a light. [Eph. 5:13]²⁴

Q. Do evil men preach up this light, or care for it?

A. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and they do not come to the light, or else their evil

deeds would be discovered. [John 3:20]²⁵

Q. Do good men love and follow the light?

A. Whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that people can see their deeds are done in God. [John 3:21]²⁶

Q. What does the light do for those love it and walk in it?

A. If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. [1 John 1:7]²⁷

Q. Does Christ command us to heed the light?

A. While you have the light, believe in the light, so you can be children of the light. [John 12:36]²⁸

Q. Were the apostles commanded to turn people toward the light?

A. I am saving you (Paul) from your own people and the Gentiles. I'm sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them away from darkness and toward the light, and from Satan toward God, so they can receive forgiveness of sins and join the sanctified through faith in Me. [Acts 26:17-18]²⁹

Q. Does the light abide with everyone their whole lives, in order to save them, or only when God offers them His grace?

A. The light is with you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, or darkness will overtake you. [John 12:35]³⁰

Again, God set a certain day, telling David, "today". It is said, "Today, if you hear His voice, don't harden your hearts." [Hebrews 4:7]³¹

Q. How can it be proven that one day people may understand what will bring them peace, but afterwards it may be hidden from them?

A. When he came near, he saw the city and wept for it, saying, "If you, even you, had only known today the things that give you peace; but now they are hidden from your eyes." [Luke 19:41-42]³²

Q. What other Scriptures prove the Lord's willingness to gather a people who then rejected him and were condemned?

A. Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kills the prophets, and stones those who God sends you, how often I would have gathered your children together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you refused! [Matthew 23:37]³³

The the servant's lord said, "You wicked servant! I forgave all your debts because you asked me; shouldn't you have had mercy for your fellow servant, just like I had pity on you? His lord was furious and gave the servant over to his tormentors until he paid all he owed. [Matt. 23:37; Luke 13:34]^{34,35}

Then Paul and Barnabas boldly said, "It was necessary to preach the word of God to you, but seeing you've rejected it, judging yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, we'll turn to the Gentiles instead." [Acts 13:46]³⁶

Because I called and you refused, because I offered my hand and no one took it, because you ignored my commands and rejected my rebukes, I will laugh at your destruction and mock your fear. [Proverbs 1:24-26]³⁷

I will speak of a nation, and of the kingdom that will build and plant it: If it does evil by not obeying me, I will withhold the good I intended for it. [Jeremiah 18:9-10]³⁸

Q. Does God's Spirit stay for a while, and then afterwards leave?

A. And the Lord said, "My Spirit will not always be with people." [Genesis 6:3]³⁹

Q. Can the Spirit be resisted?

A. You stubborn and unsaved people, you always resist the Holy Spirit, just like your fathers did. [Acts 7:51]⁴⁰

God's wrath is revealed from heaven against the evils of man, who hide the truth in evil. [Romans 1:18]⁴¹

Q. Is this light given to evil people?

A. Jesus told them many things through parables: "A farmer went out to plant his seeds, and when he planted, some seeds fell in the wrong place, and some among stones, and some among thorns. [Matt. 13:3-7]⁴²

Q. Are these places where the seeds are said to have fallen a metaphor for men's hearts?

A. This is the meaning of the parable: When someone hears God's word and doesn't understand it, the wicked one comes and takes away what was planted in his heart. This is what I mean by seeds falling by the wayside. [Matt. 13:18-19]⁴³

Q. Is this seed small at first sight?

A. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, planted in a field. [Matt. 13:31-32]⁴⁴

Q. For those who don't understand these metaphors (even though they're in the Bible): Does God offer His Spirit to everyone?

A. The Spirit is given to everyone, for their benefit. [1 Cor. 12:7]⁴⁵

Q. If it is for their benefit, then it must be for their salvation. Otherwise, how could it benefit them at all? But regarding those who distinguish a "common" grace from a saving grace, is saving grace offered to all?

A. God's saving grace has appeared to all men. [Titus 2:11]⁴⁶

Q. Anything that gives salvation must be saving grace. But what does this saving grace teach

us?

A. Teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and instead live righteously, godly, and soberly in this present world. [Titus 2:12]⁴⁷

Q. Whatever teaches righteousness and godliness but be sufficient to save, because therein is the entire duty of man. What does Paul say elsewhere about this teacher?

A. Now, brothers, I urge you to turn to God, and to His grace, which can build you up and number you among the saints. [Acts 20:32]⁴⁸

Q. What is God's word?

A. God's word is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, sharp enough to cleave the soul and spirit from the body. It knows the thoughts and the heart. Nothing is hidden from it, but everything is naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must be accountable. [Hebrews 4:12-13]⁴⁹

Q. Should we obey this word?

A. We have a more sure prophecy, to which you should take heed, like a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the sun rises in your hearts. [2 Peter 1:19]⁵⁰

Q. I see the Scriptures are very clear about the universality and sufficiency of this light, seed, grace, and word of God, but is the word with us or far away, is it inward, or outward?

A. Don't say in your heart, "Who will go to heaven to bring Christ down here?" or "Who will go down to the depths to bring Christ up from the dead? The word we preach says that the word is near you, in your mouth and your heart. [Romans 10:6-8]⁵¹

Q. That's clear about the word, but what about the light being inward?

A. God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We have this light in our earthly bodies, so that the power is of God, not of us. [2 Cor. 4:6-7]⁵²

Q. Since it's also called the seed of the kingdom, does that mean God's kingdom is within us?

A. God's Kingdom is not seen with the eyes, but rather it is within you. [Luke 17:20-21]⁵³

Notes

¹For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

²In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

³But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

⁴My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

⁵To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

⁶I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

⁷For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

⁸Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

⁹The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

¹⁰To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

¹¹For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

¹²I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

¹³(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

¹⁴Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

¹⁵But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

¹⁶He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

¹⁷And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

¹⁸If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

¹⁹For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

²⁰But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the

minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

²¹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²²And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²³He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

²⁴But all things that are reprove are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

²⁵For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprove.

²⁶But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

²⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

²⁸While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

²⁹Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

³⁰Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

³¹Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

³²And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

³³O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

³⁵O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

³⁶Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

³⁷Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

³⁸And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

³⁹And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

⁴⁰Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

⁴¹For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

⁴²And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

⁴³Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

⁴⁴Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

⁴⁵But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

⁴⁶For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

⁴⁷Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

⁴⁸And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

⁴⁹For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

⁵⁰We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

⁵¹But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

⁵²For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

⁵³And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.