

The Light Redeems Us - John 1:1

- The pastor likes lights
- christmas lights: “It is an expression of total appreciation of that great theological incarnation of the truth”

The motif of light - Lights in the NT

“the sun is the best disinfectant”

Background

- dark day
 - for jews - because of roman take over
 - philosophically
 - “Word”
- John - from ephesus,
- wrote in 80ad
- How do you help the greek understand Christianity?
- Book of John is for the Greeks (not the Jews)

What was the deep longing of that day?

John 1:1

“Word” - (logos): “word” or “reason”

Gen 1:3

Philosopher’s point of view:

- the impersonal abstract principle of reason and order in the universe
- the mind of God gives order to the universe
- 2 words: seen and unseen where seen is a bad prototype of the unseen (a figment of our imagination).
- Unseen has perfect order
- Philosophers were paid to come in and wax eloquently about the “Logos”... and it accomplished nothing.
- “was the word” - “was” is imperfect (I am verb) (“In the beginning existed the word”)
- “pros ton theon” - means more than the “Word” has existed with God... it gives the picture of two personal beings facing one another and engaging in the intelligent discourse.
- I.E: The mind of God has come into this world and has come in the form of Jesus Christ himself.

Plato & Aristotle

- Had huge influence on the 1st Century Church:
- Waxed eloquently about “light” and the “word” but what they had to say never came out right.
- A profound text - **DON’T BECOME COMPLACENT!!!!**

V2-3

- God has always existed
- To the Jew “Word” as divine power, to the Greek “Word” was illumination (reasoning)
- Genealogies of Jesus. Matthew goes to Abraham, Luke goes to ...

v5

- “The darkness did not comprehend/overcome it”
- “overcome” - “katalambano” - to arrest to capture to overtake or to overcome.
- Mark 9:18 - “seizes”
- Parable of the sowers - the seed that fell on the thorns (Satan seizing our desire and knowledge and presence in the Word which is the scriptures).
- John 15:22 - we have absolutely no excuse for not being in His Word.
- Man’s problem with accepting Christ as their savior is not an intellectual problem but a moral problem
- Joseph is a type of Christ (Genesis 37 - 50)

v6 - John the Baptist (there came a man sent from God)

- He was a Nazarite, a really good nazarite.
- He came a witness to come and tell the truth, nothing but the truth and only that which he knows.
- John is saying: “You have been looking for enlightenment and missing it. Here you have it! The truth in front of you! It is Jesus the Christ!”
- What does the Bible say about Satan: He hides himself as an angel of light!
- We have something deep within us calling out to find the truth - the Saviour of mankind!

v12

- Three key verbs:
 - “believe” :
 - “receive” :
 - “become” :
- The purpose of Christ’s coming was to create in man a regenerated heart.

Application

4 ways to pray as we enter the Christmas season

1. Begin praying for our generation of Christians - that we would become literate Christians (as we have become illiterate in God's Word)
2. That Mountain View might make a dent in the culture of our West Cobb - that we might become more involved with the community.
3. Pray that your family will make a difference for Christ
4. Pray that you might make a difference (Col 4:5-6)
 - speak wisely
 - speak with grace
 - know how you should respond