



In Him Was Life

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Introduction:

There was an art contest held in a local school one Christmas season a few years ago in East Texas. One of the prize winners was a picture drawn by a nine year old boy showing three men, offering gifts to the baby Jesus in his manger. What made the picture unique is how the three gift presenters arrived – there was fire truck on the side of the picture.

The principle asked the boy about his decision to draw the truck and the boy, in his heavy East-Texas accent, was quick to reply: “Well, the Bible says the wise men came from a-far.”

A small boy was writing a letter to God about the Christmas presents he badly wanted. "I've been good for six months now," he wrote. But after a moment's reflection he crossed out "six months" and wrote "three". After a pause that was crossed out and he put "two weeks". There was another pause and that was crossed out too. He got up from the table and went over to the little crib scene that had the figures of Mary and Joseph. He picked up the figure of Mary and went back to his writing and started again: "Dear God, if ever you want to see your mother again...!"

You and I have been going a pretty fast pace for several weeks, and as we proceed through this Advent season, I believe God would have us slow down, and ponder three themes from the Gospel of John this morning. Mary, Jesus mother was one who pondered things in her mind and heart. She had questions, and she took the time to quietly let what she heard impact her.

She thought about the Holy Spirit and the baby she would carry. She thought about where life came from and the work of the Holy Spirit who was greatly active in the incarnation of God as a human being.

When the angel told Mary that she was going to have a child, she asked, how can this be? I do not know a man. The angel said this to her:

Luke 1:35

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

This morning we are going to continue on our series in the account of Christ's coming from the Gospel of John. Great themes run deep in these verses. We see the origin of life, the relationship of life and light, and the difference between light and darkness.

TEXT: **John 1:4-5**

In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shined in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

I. The origin of life – “The WORD” - IN HIM WAS LIFE

God’s word is powerful. Not only does His Word give us hope, but the spoken expression of God has always been Jesus – the Son in the Godhead. Jesus is the Word and is the living expression of all God ever sought to communicate about Himself to man.

The Word is eternal. **Mark 13:31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

When we seek to know God and enjoy the relationship we can have with God through Jesus Christ, we seek that which is eternal, everlasting, never ending. The man’s spiritual dimension will never die. It is eternal.

1 Cor. 15:45

And so it is written, the first man Adam *was made* a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.

Through Adam we all have life – breath, a soul, through Christ we who are dead in trespasses and sins, can be made alive again. By faith alone in Jesus work on the cross, we are given life in place of the consequences of sin, which is eternal death.

Adam and Eve began with a thought, a hope, a dream. And God made man in His image. God’s work was creative. Everything that exists, that we see, was created by God’s spoken word. Let there be light, let there be fish, let there be plants. BUT when it came to man and life, God *made* man, and *breathed into him* the breath of life and man became a living soul. God put His fingers on man in creation and the breath of God became our life. Think of that this morning. You and I were made in the image of God. We think, we live, we breathe, we speak, we move, we feel, we know.

Our text declares that in HIM was life and that life was the light of men. Is there any question then why Jesus made this claim about Himself?

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Life in the original is the word Zoë. It is used 36 times in John’s writing. This word is distinctive in that it draws attention to the principal which makes physical life possible and even more often to eternal life. The expression, “in Him was life,” is not understood as natural life, but spiritual and eternal life, which He revealed to the world.

2 Tim. 1:10

But (it) is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 10:28

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

John 6:53-54

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood; you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Eve is the mother of all living. Jesus was that seed of the woman that was to bruise the head of the serpent, and to give life to the world.

Genesis 3:20

And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, LIFE, because she was the mother of all living.

And was not Jesus that seed of the woman that was to bruise the head of the serpent, and to give life to the world? It was in God’s plan that He would speak and through that spoken word He would reveal His plan and love.

We can not have physical life without the power and work of God’s spirit present, and we can not have spiritual life without the power and work of the Holy Spirit present either.

II. Relationship between life and light

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by life and thought to yourself, I just can't go on? I just can't make it? There is a connection between life and light. When God's truth and light shines into a life, or a situation, it reveals what has been unseen in the dark, what is the condition of the place where it shines, and brings clarity and focus.

The light that is being spoken of is truth. There is a purpose for your life. There is a purpose for the things that come into your life. God made you and me for a reason. Without truth, without light that reveals what has been unseen in darkness, (the condition of our life, and shows us our fallen nature, and the hope that we have in Jesus), we walk in darkness.

Several years ago, my family and I visited a famous cavern in New York. Of course we got on an elevator and descended several stories into the cavern. When we got out of the elevator, the air that met us was quite cool and damp. The tour group we were with stayed together. There were small lights along the perimeter of the tunnel of the cave we were in so we could see our way. At one point we stopped and the guide said, "Now I'm going to turn out the lights." It was so dark. There was nothing but darkness all around us. No one could see anything. We stayed in that darkness for about 30 seconds. The guide then said, "Now we are going to turn on the lights." There in front of us, were the most beautiful stalagmites and stalactites I've ever seen. They were beautiful colors, and reflected the light. I will never forget it. In the darkness we were unable to see anything. Not even the potential for beauty, because all was dark.

CONCLUSION: Jesus, God's word has come as the manifestation of God's love to man. He is the light of the world, which no darkness can put out. He is the life that rescues us from the consequences of sin which is death. Stay close to Him. Ponder these things as you go through the next couple weeks. Let Him illuminate your life.

The same principle is true in the spiritual realm. In the truth of God's light, we can see our need, and we can see the answer to our need.

Without light, life is meaningless. Without light, there is no perspective. Without walking in the truth, we stumble in darkness. We have no source to find direction; we remain in the place of darkness, because there is no sight for us to leave where we are. But Jesus is the connection between life and light.

III. Relationship between light and darkness

Light always dispels the darkness. It shines so one can clearly see. John states here that the light shined in the darkness and the darkness could not apprehend or seize hold of it.

I am delighted that the darkness will never be able to put out the light. No matter how dark sin is, no matter how evil spiritually or morally things get, darkness is no match for the light of the world.

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

The light of life speaks of the manifestation of God to man – the truth of God and His love revealed to man.

John 1:4-5

In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shined in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.