GENERAL SUBJECT:
WHAT CHRIST IS TO THE BELIEVERS IN HIS PERSON

Message Ten

Light

Scripture Reading: John 1:4-5, 9, 12:13; 8:12; 12:46; 1 John 1:5, 7; 2 Cor. 4:6

I. In His person Christ is light to the believers—John 8:12.

II. The light in Genesis 1:3 is a type of Christ as the real light—John 1:4-5, 9:
   A. Christ is the true light of the universe; He is the rising sun from on high, the bright morning star, and the Sun of righteousness—Luke 1:78; Rev. 22:16b; Mal. 4:2.
   B. The physical light in Genesis 1:3 is a type of Christ as the spiritual light for the new creation—2 Cor. 4:6; 5:17:
      1. Light is necessary for generating life; according to the revelation in the Bible, light is for life—John 8:12; 1:9, 12:
         a. Where light is, there is life; this is a great principle in the Scriptures.
         b. Life comes from the shining of light; when light enters, life follows.
      2. In Genesis light is for the old creation, but in the Gospel of John light is for the new creation—1:4-5, 9, 12; 8:12; 12:36; 2 Cor. 4:6; 5:17.

III. Christ is the light of life—John 8:12; 1:4:
   A. Christ is the unique light; apart from Him there is no light—12:46.
   B. We can see light only in the light of Christ; if we want light, we must receive Christ and touch Christ—Psa. 36:9b; cf. Isa. 50:10-11.
   C. When we receive Christ as the Word, the expression of God, He becomes our life, and this life becomes the light that shines within us—John 1:4-5, 9.
   D. The shining of the light within us is a strong confirmation that we have been born of God to be His children—vv. 12:13; 1 John 1:5, 7; 3:1-2.

IV. Christ is the great light for shining in darkness—Isa. 9:1-5; Matt. 4:16:
   A. When Christ came to Galilee, the people sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those sitting in the region and shadow of death, light sprang up—v. 16.
   B. Christ’s ministry did not begin with earthly power but with heavenly light; this light is Christ Himself shining in the shadow of death—John 12:46; 8:12.
   C. Christ saves us by shining on us; His shining upon us as the great light is our salvation—Acts 9:3; 22:6; 26:13.

V. The transfiguration, the shining, of the Lord Jesus on the mountaintop was His coming in His kingdom, the coming of the kingdom in power—Matt. 16:28—17:2:
A. The kingdom is the shining of the reality of the Lord Jesus—Mark 9:1-3.
C. Whenever Christ is shining over us and we are under this shining, we are in the kingdom—Col. 1:12-13.

VI. “Who among you fears Jehovah; / Who hears the voice of His servant; / Who walks in darkness / And has no light? / Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, / And rely on his God. / Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, / Who surround yourselves with firebrands, / Walk into the light of your fire / And into the firebrands which you have lit. / You will have this from My hand: / You will lie down in torment”—Isa. 50:10-11:

A. Spiritual darkness cannot be removed by human fire; light comes from God alone, not from man—1 John 1:5; Psa. 36:9.
B. As believers, we cannot go on in the spiritual pathway by our own fire; rather, we should trust in the name of the Lord and rely on our God—Isa. 50:10:
   1. Spiritual light does not come from our own feelings or our own thoughts.
   2. We should not replace God’s light with our own light; we should receive our light from God—v. 11.

VII. “For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light”—Psa. 36:9:

A. The first light in verse 9 is the enlightening light, and the second light denotes the true nature of things.
B. Through God’s light we see light and the true condition of things:
   1. We see the true nature of something when we live in God’s light—1 John 1:5, 7.
   2. Only those who live in God’s light will see the true nature of things—v. 7:
      a. If we live in God’s light, the true nature of things will be as clear and bright as light itself, and we will discern the intrinsic nature of things.
      b. The only time a person genuinely knows himself is when he knows himself under God’s light—Acts 9:3-5; John 1:4-5, 9; 2 Cor. 4:6.

VIII. The Father has qualified us for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light—Col. 1:12:

A. The only way to partake of Christ and to enjoy Him is in the light.
B. When we turn to the Lord and come into His presence, we are in the light and spontaneously begin to enjoy Him as our portion—Psa. 36:8-9.

IX. We are not only children of light—we are light itself—Eph. 5:8:

A. Light is the nature of God in His expression, and we are light because we are one with God in the Lord—v. 8; 1 John 1:5-7; Matt. 5:14.
B. When we are in the light, we are outside the realm of right and wrong—1 John 1:5, 7.

X. God’s way of transforming us is through the enlightening from the two lamps within us—the Spirit of God and our human spirit; the one who experiences the most transformation is the one who is absolutely open to the Lord—John 4:24; Luke 15:8; Prov. 20:27; 2 Cor. 3:18.

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