

The Word became Flesh 2nd Advent - He is Life and Light

John 1:4-9

Ever been in complete darkness - Carlsbad Caverns

All the lights were off - could not see hand before eyes
One match and all the darkness fled
In Creation God said let there be light (first day - Sun and moon 4th)

John speaks of the Word becoming Flesh with two powerful pictures

I. Jesus (The Word) is the life giver

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A. In creation God breathed the breath of life into man - Genesis 2:7

All life comes from God - man cannot give it

B. Here the Greek word means more than biological life -*bio*

It is *Zoe* or the life principle -physical, emotional, spiritual
Life is a key theme of John used 36 times

C. Jesus has this power as God

John 5:26 The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son.

D. Jesus proclaimed this to all

John 11:25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.
John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.
John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

II. Jesus (The Word) is the light bearer

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A. Essential to life

Natural - the Sun
Spiritual - The Son (Sun of Righteousness **Malachi 4:2**)

B. Darkness could not comprehend it

Those who choose darkness cannot understand the truth
God must give them eyes to see, life to experience it

C. Darkness cannot overcome it

Light always wins over darkness - Truth over false

D. Darkness cannot hinder it

It shines in darkness - even into our lives today

III. John (and we) are witnesses to the light

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A. John was a light but not the light

John 5:35 John like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message.

B. He was sent from God (as are we)

God gave him as a miracle to Elizabeth and Zachariah **Luke 1**
God even gave his name - John - God is gracious.

C. He and we are more like candles than suns

Giving light and giving our lives (He must increase...)
The Gospel of John - witness 13 times and testify 33 times

D. So that all might believe in Christ

IV. Jesus (The Word) is the True Light

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A. Meaning there is also false light

2 Corinthians 11:14 But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Story of Ship and lighthouse

Real story of pirates setting up false light houses

B. Jesus repeated proclaimed this truth

John 8:12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 12:46 I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

See also John 12:35-36

C. The light that lights every man

Every person is born with innate truth -right and wrong
The natural conscience is a gift from God
God is holy and just - all have a chance

What are the responsibilities of Life and light?

Life and light are truth and those who receive them must

1. Recognize the vision they give

A vision of God

A vision of sin

2. Make a choice about them

Reject - not comprehend

John 3:18-19 "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

Believe - receive the gift of life

John 12:46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

1 John 5:11-12 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

3. Walk in the light - live according to the truth

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^{sin} sin.

4. Spread the light

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."