

## Sermon Notes – December 23, 2018

Jesus: The Only Way to Make Peace with God

[#3] *Dead Rebels in Need of a Devine Substitute*

### John 1:1–18



#### Children's Sermon: Eating Light

**Who knows about photosynthesis?** (Illus. a box on the grass – It can't eat)

“The whole process of photosynthesis is a transfer of energy from the Sun to a plant. In each sugar molecule created, there is a little bit of the energy from the sun, which the plant can either use or store for later. ...sugars that humans [eat] to drive our daily activities. Even when we eat things like chicken or fish, we are transferring energy from the Sun into our bodies because, at some point, [some animal] consumed a [plant who stored the sun's energy] (e.g., the fish ate algae).”<sup>i</sup>

**Jesus is like this!** (Cf. Psalm 19:1–6 “heavens declare His glory”)

**John 5:25–26**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.<sup>26</sup> For as **the Father has life in himself**, so he has granted **the Son also to have life in himself.**

How is this life of Jesus given to us?

1. We hear about Jesus (Who & What)
2. We Trust Him & Follow Him



**The Word of God is Light & Life** (Cf. above, John 5:25–26)

Notes:

- **Jesus** is God: Eternal, Self-Sufficient Creator/Sustainer
- **Jesus** is Made a Man to Accomplish God's Gracious Love & Faithfulness (Glory/Goodness)
- **Jesus/Word** is Light/Life in Our Dark World...

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

**John 8:12** (Cf. John 12:46)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the **light** of the world. **Whoever follows me** will not walk in **darkness**, but will have the **light of life.**”

**Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...**

Our darkness is the problem that the light of the **gospel** remedies.  
(Includes both the Who & the What)



## What is “the Darkness”?

### A. The Darkness is Ignorance (Blindness, Inability)

<sup>10</sup> **He was in the world**, and the world was made through him, yet the world *did not know him*.

### John 12:35 (Cf. **Vine & branches** – John 15:5; Dead)

<sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. *The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going*.

### B. The Darkness is Rebellion

<sup>11</sup> **He came to his own**, and his own people *did not receive him*. ...

### John 3:19

And this is the judgment: the **light** has come into the world, and *people loved the darkness* rather than the **light** *because their works were evil*.

### C. Claiming to Walk in the Light is not Walking in the Light

#### 1 John 2:4–11

<sup>4</sup> Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. <sup>7</sup> Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. <sup>8</sup> At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because **the darkness** is passing away and **the true light** is already shining. <sup>9</sup> Whoever *says he is in the light* and *hates his brother* is *still in darkness*. <sup>10</sup> Whoever *loves his brother abides in the light*, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. <sup>11</sup> But whoever *hates his brother is in the darkness* and *walks in the darkness*, and **does not know where he is going**, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

## The Light that Gives Us Life

*...Fired at our Life & Heart*

We are dead/blind rebels in need of God’s light and life!



## A. Given the right to become children of God (Both Responsible & Rescued)

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**. (Cf. John 3:3–8)

### John 3:7–8

<sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be **born again**.’  
<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is **born of the Spirit**.”

## B. We Get this Backwards

1. We don’t take responsibility for our sins. (Blame-shift; Repent)
2. We think our new life depends on us. (Self-reliant; Believe)



## C. How Can We Know We Have the “Light”? (Saving Faith)

### Matthew 5:3–4 (Matt. 5:5–12 – The Beatitudes)

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.

1. Our Inability (Poverty)
2. Godly Grief
3. Trusting in Jesus Christ

## D. What Manner of “Life” is Given to those Who are Born Again? (Repentance)

### Matthew 5:5–12 – The Beatitudes Continued

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.

1. Submission to God – **Humility**

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.

- a. Zeal for Righteousness (Longing to be like Jesus)

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.

- a. Giving the same Mercy we Receive

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

- a. Love for Neighbor

2. Treasuring Jesus, His Commands, & His Promises

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are **persecuted for righteousness’ sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others *revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is *great in heaven*, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Mark 8:36–38**

<sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to **gain the whole world and forfeit his soul**? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**What does it profit a man to lose the whole world for the sake of Jesus and his teachings?**

When Jesus returns with his holy angels,  
all will see that we have chosen wisely!

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<sup>i</sup> **The Smithsonian Science Education Center** Web site. “*What is Photosynthesis.*” By Science and Technology Concepts Middle School. <https://ssec.si.edu/stemvisions-blog/what-photosynthesis>