

December 2, 2018

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Light, the Revealing One
John 1:4-5

One of the most dominant features of the Christmas season is lights. Beyond festive value, lights reflect the significant reality that we celebrate Jesus who is the Light of the world.

I. Jesus as the Light.

A. Jesus reveals God's GLORY, John 1:4,14; Hebrews 1:3; Mark 9:3 (Matthew 17, Luke 9).

B. Jesus reveals God's NATURE, John 1:17-18; John 14:7-9.

C. Jesus reveals God's LIFE, John 1:4-5, 9; 8:12; 12:35-36; Luke 1:76-79.

II. The victory of the Light.

A. The victory of Jesus over DEATH, John 1:5; Luke 24:5-7.

B. Victory over death OFFERED to all, John 3:16-17; 12:35-36; 46.

C. Victory over the DARKNESS forever, Revelation 22:5.

III. Mankind and the Light.

A. Some will REJECT the light, John 1:11; 3:19-20; 9:5, 40-41.

B. Some will RECEIVE the light, John 1:12-13; 12:36, 46.

Let the beauty of seasonal lights compel you to ponder the significance of Jesus who has come as the Light of the world! He offers life itself, life eternal to all who will turn from the

darkness and put their faith in Him. This is truly "grace upon grace," it is peace with God bought at the high cost of the blood of Jesus. This is the Good News of Christmas.



Do you hang lights on your home or Christmas tree? Talk as a family about why or why not. Discuss: How does light make life possible in the natural world? How does Jesus the light make eternal life and the knowledge of eternal life possible (review John 1:4, 12 and 12:35-36 or other passages)?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. The simple statement from John 1:4, "In him was life..." is loaded with significance. What are some of the thoughts you can associate with that truth?
2. Discuss some of the differences between light and darkness, and the ways those differences parallel the presence or absence of Jesus the light.
3. John writes, "...and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." Thinking of the experience the disciples had walking with Jesus, what "glory" do you think John was recalling? Specifically, how did Jesus reveal God's grace and truth?
4. Jesus the "one and only" (the unique God the Son) has "explained" or made known the Father (John 1:18). This is parallel to the thought that as the Light he reveals God. What do you think of when the writer of Hebrews declares Jesus is "the radiance of His (God's) glory" and "the exact representation of His nature"? What impact should this have on someone who wants to know God better, and what would you recommend to such a person?

NEXT WEEK: Humility, The Exemplary One, Philippians 2:1-18