

**JOHN 1:6-13**  
**THE WITNESS AND RESPONSE!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 1 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As I have said, John 1:1-18 is a prelude to what John is going to share about Jesus in the rest of this Gospel.

And if you don't have a good foundation to build upon, the rest of the structure will be weak and will crumble.

That is why John starts out with a bang here and lays it all out telling us that Jesus is Almighty God, He is eternal and was with the Father from eternity past and will continue on into eternity future. He created all things.

Now, if we miss that, then what is the point of Jesus coming? In fact, if He is not Almighty God, then who is He?

Some will say that He is just "*a god*" but that can't be. And the reason I say that is because the Bible is clear on that.

In Deuteronomy 5:7 we are told, "**You shall have no other gods before Me.**" (Also see Exodus 20:3)

And this says it all. Listen to what the Lord said in Isaiah 44:6-8, it should close the case that Jesus is God and there are no other gods out there.

We are told, **“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”**

This is such an awesome part of the Scriptures.

The reason being is that we see that in Isaiah 44:6 it is spoken in the first person singular and yet as you read it, we see that *Yahweh the King of Israel* is spoken of, God the Father, *AND Yahweh his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts*, Jesus spoken of.

You see, one God manifested in 2 of the 3 persons of the Godhead spoken of in the Scriptures is spoken of here.

Now the Jehovah Witnesses like to tell you the redeemer is not Jesus, but Jehovah, the Almighty God, for Jesus is only a mighty God.

Again, as you read verse 6 it is speaking of two different people here, that is why the word **“and”** is used.

Now there is this little problem that we see repeated several times in Isaiah chapters 44 and 45 and that is the fact that there are no other God’s!

What is interesting is that the word **“God”** is ELOHIM, (el-o-heem’) and it speaks of more than two.

Now I am not saying that we are polytheistic or believe in many God’s, not at all!

But we believe in One God manifested in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

So that is the foundation we will be building upon as we go through the Gospel of John. He is going to show us the evidence that Jesus is Almighty God, this is the foundation!

In our study this morning we are going to be looking at a message I have called – ***THE WITNESS AND THE RESPONSE!***

I have broken the verses we will be looking at into four main points and they are,

***JOHN IS NOT THE LIGHT – JOHN 1:6-8***

***THE LIGHT HAS COME – JOHN 1:9-10***

***THE REJECTION – JOHN 1:11***

***THE ACCEPTANCE – JOHN 1:12-13***

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading here in John chapter 1, beginning in verse 6, and let's see what the Lord has for us as we look at this topic - ***THE WITNESS AND THE RESPONSE!***

## **JOHN 1**

### **VERSES 1:6-8**

This witness that John is speaking of is not himself, but John the Baptist. And John tells us that John the Baptist is not the light that he is speaking of and that is our first point – ***JOHN IS NOT THE LIGHT!***

Let me fill in some of the details of this man named John.

In Luke chapter 1 we see a man named Zacharias and it was his turn to serve in the Temple, to burn incense before the Lord.

Him and his wife had no children, and we are told in Luke 1:11-17, **“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, “to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,” and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”**

This child would grow up and he would be a partial fulfilment of what we are told in Malachi 3:1, **“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,’ Says the Lord of hosts.”**

And in Malachi 4:5-6, at the close of this book, we are told, **“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”**

John was a type of Elijah and John will prepare the way for Jesus in His First Coming just as Elijah will prepare the way for Jesus in His Second Coming.

John was a herald you might say. And what a herald would do is prepare the way for the king or leader. He would make sure the roads were in good shape, that they were cleared up and he would announce who was coming. That is what John the Baptist did.

Listen to what we are told in Isaiah 40:3-5 about the coming of John the Baptist. We are told, **“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’”**

Make no mistake about it, this passage of Isaiah has a direct fulfillment in the person and ministry of John the Baptist.

He was the man who prepared the way for the coming of the Lord, as I have said.  
(Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:1-4, Luke 1:76-78, John 1:23)

And John was not preparing a physical landscape but the hearts of the people. He told the people to **“... ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’”** Matthew 3:2.

Let me add this. Isaiah also speaks of **“The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together, For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”** Isaiah 40:5.

When Jesus came the first time, we are told in John 1:14, **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

In other words, they saw the glory of God before them even though it was veiled in flesh.

John was to prepare the people to meet their Lord!

But again, he was not the light! Remember what we read in John 1:8, “**He was not the Light, but was sent to bear witness of the Light.**”

And I want you to see the humble spirit of John. In John 3:27-30 he said to the Jewish religious leaders, “**John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.’**”

John was a humble man and even though many of the Jewish people were following him, he knew what he was to do. John pointed people to the Lamb of God who could take away the sins of the world! He pointed people to Jesus.

Remember what he said, “**He must increase, but I must decrease.**”

Today, many people struggle because they want the attention, they want people to follow them. And what is interesting is that many of these people have come up with their own doctrine, new teachings so that they can draw people to themselves! That is very dangerous.

John the Baptist came on the scene to bear witness of Jesus, the light of the world!

And the purpose of the witnessing is that people would be drawn to the light, they would receive the life that is found in Jesus, they would believe in Jesus!

We too are to bear witness of Jesus in all we do and say, our lives should be light and not darkness.

When John speaks of “**Light**” here he uses the Greek word PHOS, (foce) and this is speaking of more than just the rays, it is speaking of the source of light!

And John tells us that the source of Light is Jesus and John the Baptist was not the source of light, but he came to point people to the Light, to Jesus, not to draw attention to himself!

In saying that, put your name here in the Gospel of John where John the Baptist's name is.

Let me show you what I mean by putting my name there. **“There was a man sent from God, whose name was [Joe]. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”**

Now let me be clear on this, I am not like John the Baptist, I am not John the Baptist, but like John the Baptist, aren't we called to bear witness of the Light, of Jesus?

Of course we are!

What John did is exactly what we are doing today. We are preparing the people for the Lord's return and we are praying for the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the people so that their eyes may be open and that they may see Jesus.

In saying that we also need to understand that, like John, we are not to draw people to ourselves, but we are to draw them to Jesus.

And there is that preparation that needs to take place and prayer is a great place to start.

Think of it like this. Building a road is very much like the preparation God must do in our hearts. They are both expensive or they will cost us something, they both must deal with many different problems and environments, and they both take an expert engineer and for us, that is Jesus Christ!

But God is working and He will use us to bring the light of God into this dark world!

Also, the idea that Isaiah is putting forth in Isaiah 40 is that all the obstacles between God and His people will be removed.

Sin, which separated man from God, will be done away with or I should say that the forgiveness of those sins was paid for by Jesus so that we can approach God.

Sin will not be done away completely until the New Heavens and the New Earth are created.

Those obstacles were removed when Jesus came the first time, even though we do allow the flesh to get in the way from time to time, but the penalty for our sin was paid in full by Jesus.

Now ultimately in the Kingdom Age, all those rough, rocky, roads will be removed, and we will travel on the Highway of Holiness to worship the Lord. That is those physical obstacles and those spiritual obstacles!

Our witness is so important. Think of it like this.

*A witness “does more. It commits a man. If I take my stand in the witness box and testify that such-and-such is the truth of the matter I am no longer neutral. I have committed myself. John lets us know that there are those like John the Baptist who have committed themselves by their witness to Christ.” (Morris)*

May we be like John and take a stand for what we believe in, being a witness for Jesus, one who gives life to those who are spiritually dead and light to those who are in spiritual darkness!

Just like John the Baptist, we are not the Light, but we have been sent to bear witness of that Light which has come and is coming again – **JESUS!**



VERSES 9-10

In these verses we see John tell us – ***THE LIGHT HAS COME!***

Look at the world that Jesus entered. It was a world that was in darkness. For the Jewish people, God had been silent for some 400 years! Darkness filled the land!

And then the light of God burst into this world of darkness, God became flesh and dwelt among us!

John the Baptist was not the light, but Jesus is, and this light was not just for the Jews, it was not just for a certain group of people, but this light was for every person in this world. John put it like this, that the light of Jesus “**. . . gives light to every man who comes into the world.**”  
John 1:9.

The Amplified Bible puts John 1:9 like this, “**There it was - the true Light [was then] coming into the world [the genuine, perfect, steadfast Light] that illumines every person. [Isa 49:6.]**”

The Living Bible puts John 1:9 like this, “**Later on, the one who is the true Light arrived to shine on everyone coming into the world.**”

Let me say this. The light of God was always there, it was just covered by the darkness of sinful man, they couldn't see God and they did not want to see God.

But now, in the Person of Jesus Christ, the glory of God was shining in this dark world and that light was to touch every person on this planet. That does not mean every person is saved, but they have the ability to be saved, it is a choice on their part if they want to harden their hearts to God or receive Him into their lives!

In Matthew 4:12-17 listen to what we are told, **“Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”**

This area of Galilee is about 60 by 30 miles with some 204 villages with none of them having less than 15,000 people.

So the population of this region was more than 3 million, mostly Gentiles but there were Jewish cities and people as well.

And Matthew tells us this is the area where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali settled when the land was divided during the times of Joshua.

Why is this important?

Because this is a fulfillment of what the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 9:1-2.

In this area of spiritual darkness, Jesus, the light of the world will come to pierce this darkness and give the people a hope for the future, a light to guide them.

You see, Jesus didn't come to save the righteous, but the sinner, and thus, He places Himself right in the middle of those who were in need, who saw their problem, not the self-righteous who saw no need for Him.

Also, Jesus did not come just for the Jewish people, but as Isaiah says and Matthew quotes, He came to shine upon the Gentiles!

And remember the message that John the Baptist gave to the people preparing them for the coming Messiah – “**... ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’**” Matthew 3:2.

The same message of John is now picked up by Jesus – “**... ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**” Matthew 4:17.

Why that message? Why not something more positive?

Because you first must recognize your position and then you must take that step of faith and turn back to God.

It is a change of heart that leads to a change in our actions!

And if Jesus is speaking forth this message of repentance, so must we!

In John 8:12 we are told, “**Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’**”

Here’s the thing. The world is in darkness and thus, all that the world has to offer us, the world system that is against God, is darkness!

But if we want to walk in the light then we need to follow after Jesus. It is when we listen to the world that we are heading down a path of darkness and look at where the world is leading people today.

And if you think it is light, you are wrong.

When I grew up my parents disciplined me, not because they were evil or bad, but because they loved me, and they were training me up to be a mature adult.

But then the world stepped in, and when my kids were growing up, if you disciplined your child that was child abuse! We obeyed God and not the words of man!

And look at where we are at today! Now children, young children, eight or so years of age, maybe even younger, are deciding if they are a boy or girl and parents have no say in the matter. And if they try to stop this, then they can have that child removed from their home, they could lose custody.

That is just one example of how the world is leading people farther and farther into darkness! The world shines its sin in the face of God, and they don't even blush anymore!

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16, **“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

John the Baptist said that Jesus is the Light, and he used the Greek word PHOS of Jesus being the source of light, which just makes sense.

What is interesting here is that Jesus said, **“You are the light of the world. . .”** And Jesus uses the same Greek word for light, PHOS!

How in the world can we be the light of the world when only Jesus is the light of the world? I thought we were to radiate the light of God, but that is not what Jesus is saying here, He is saying that we are the light of the world! How can that be?

Think about what took place when you got saved! Jesus, the true light is inside of us! Thus, as we live out our faith the light of Jesus is shining through us.

Remember the illustration of the pumpkin. You can carve a pumpkin and stick it outside and when it is dark, you can't see it. There is no light inside of it and thus, it is covered by the darkness.

But if you put a light inside the pumpkin then that light will shine through it and people will be able to see the face you carved in the pumpkin!

That, in a sense is us. We are not pumpkins, but the light of Jesus is in us because Jesus is in us and that light of Christ shines through us and it shines in this dark world! Yes, He is the true light but that true light shines in us, don't forget that as you go out into this world!

Remember what Paul wrote in Philippians 2:14-15, **“Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”**

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves], That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world.”**

I like that. We are living in a dark world; I think we are all in agreement with that fact.

The wonderful thing is that as dark as this world might get or is getting, we **“are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world.”**

Now, as we read on and John is speaking of the true Light, Jesus Christ coming into the world, that brings us to our next point – ***THE REJECTION!***

VERSE 11

That phrase, “**he came to His own**” is used when John was told by Jesus, as Jesus hung on the cross of Calvary for our sins, that John is to take Mary His mother and care for her, and we see that John, “**took her to his own home.**” John 19:27.

Jesus, the Son of David, came to His own, to the Jews first, but they rejected Him!

Now it is not that they were not told of the coming Messiah. The Old Testament Scriptures speak of the First Coming of Jesus over 300 times!

Even Jesus told the Jewish religious leaders in John 5:39-40, “**You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**”

It is amazing how blind people can be to what is right there before them. Even John the Baptist struggled with Jesus being the Messiah when John was put in prison by Herod.

Now, because things were not happening like John thought they should, John began to doubt and thus, he sends some of his disciples to Jesus to ask Him, “**Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?**” Luke 7:19.

So these disciples of John come to Jesus with that very question and listen to what transpired after they asked Jesus this question.

In Luke 7:21-23 we are told, “**And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.’**”

Now you read that, and you may be thinking, “*Hey, wait a minute. Jesus did not answer the question that they had for Him. He did not tell them if He is the Messiah or if they should look for someone else!*”

But He did answer that question.

In other words, by fulfilling the things that the Old Testament prophets spoke of, He was showing the disciples of John the Baptist that He is the One!

*He healed the blind – Isaiah 61:1, 35:5.*

*He made the lame walk – Isaiah 35:5.*

*He made the deaf to hear – Isaiah 35:5.*

*He raised people from the dead – Isaiah 26:19.*

In fact, it is what He said His ministry was all about, the things that Isaiah said, “**The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD. . .**” (Luke 4:18-19, Isaiah 61:1-2)

You see, His life was a witness to who He is, the Messiah!

And then, notice what Jesus tells these disciples of John the Baptist, “**. . . ‘Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.’**”

Now that they have seen these things they were to go and tell John that Jesus is the One!

And this proof that Jesus is the Messiah was not some feeling that they had, not some kind of emotional experience or a gut feeling, it was based on the Word of God, what the Old Testament prophets spoke regarding the Messiah!

If you are confused who the Messiah is, you have some doubts because of the things you are going through, you need to clear your eyes and look upon His Word so your view will be according to the truth and you will see Jesus as He is, God, our Messiah! You see, that is the solution, get into the Word of God!

For the Jews, they knew these things, but many refused to see that Jesus was the Messiah!

In fact, the prophet Daniel was told the exact day that the Messiah was to ride through Jerusalem as Messiah the King! (Daniel 9:25)

There were times that the Jews wanted to make Jesus the King, but He refused, moved away from them. And the reason for that was it was not yet time. We see this in John 6:15 where we are told, **“Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.”**

Why did He do that?

Because, like I have said, His time had not yet come!

So Daniel tells us that sixty-nine seven-year periods of time would go by from the command to be given to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah would come as King.

Keep in mind that this prophecy is based on a 360-day year and that would come to 173,880 days. If we can find the starting point, we then could count off the 173,880 days and come to this event.

The starting point is given to us in Nehemiah chapter 2 as we see King Artaxerxes Longimanus give the command to Nehemiah to rebuild the streets and the walls of Jerusalem.

This is the starting point which we are told occurred in the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes reign.



We see in the 1990 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica that it states that King Artaxerxes ascended to the throne of the Medo-Persian Empire in July 465 B. C. So that means if the command was given in the twentieth year of his reign that would put the year the command was given at 445 B. C.

Now according to Hebrew tradition, when the day of the month is not specified, then it is taken to be the first day of that month.

So the day of the decree by Artaxerxes was the first day of the Hebrew month Nisan 445 B. C., which corresponds to the fourteenth day of March.

Thus, our starting date is March 14, 445 B. C.

As much as Jesus rejected them proclaiming Him as King, there is one place where Jesus sets things up so He can be proclaimed as King.

It was during the week of Passover when the city was packed with people and we see Jesus come riding into Jerusalem, down the Mount of Olives, on the back of a donkey, as Zechariah told us would occur.

And in Luke 19:35-38 we are told of this event, **“Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

The crowds were singing Psalm 118:26 which was a Psalm to herald the Messiah.

And the Pharisees recognized exactly what was happening and they knew that they themselves could not control the crowd, so they went to Jesus, the one who was being heralded as the Messiah.

And they brought this to the attention of Jesus, that the people were blaspheming the true God by what they were doing.

And I love the response of Jesus, “. . . ‘I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.’”

Why would that happen if the crowds were silent?

Because this was the day that was predicted over 500 years before His birth, that God would ride through Jerusalem as the Messiah their King!

Nothing was going to stop that.

What was the date that this took place?

We call it Palm Sunday, and it was 173,880 days after the command by King Artaxerxes, which brings us to April 6, 32 A. D. as Jesus, the *MASHIACH NAGID* had come!

And I realize that there are those who say that this date is just made up. But when you read what the Scriptures tell us, and you read what Jesus said about the Jews not recognizing what time it was, there is no mistaking that this was exactly 173,880 days after the command was given to restore and rebuild Jerusalem!

We read in Luke 19:41-44, **“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, ‘If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.’”**

Blindness had come upon the nation of Israel because they did not recognize what day it was. They were not aware that the Messiah had come and was with them and thus they were accountable for not knowing prophecy!

Understand this, no man, as clever as he may be, could arrange such a plan, only God can!

So Jesus came to His own and they did not receive Him!

And let me say this, because it is not only for the Jewish people. It is for any person who has shut their eyes to Jesus, they refuse to see who He is!

They are blinded to the light of God.

Think about that for a minute. If the brightest sunlight hits the eyes of a blind person, they still remain in darkness because they are blind, they can't see.

Paul points that out in II Corinthians 4:3-4 as he wrote, **“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”**

Paul is very clear on this. The Devil has blinded their eyes. But that does not negate the responsibility of the person. You see, people are responsible for rejecting the Lord, for not wanting to believe.

They don't believe because they love the darkness, the sin, the things they are doing more than God and thus, they are condemned for it!

We can block God right out of our lives even though nature itself declares the glory of God! (Psalm 19)

Think about it like this. Today we have all these different sunblock's. In our house we have anywhere from SPF 6 to SPF 30!

The idea is these lotions are to block out the harmful rays of the sun, so we don't get skin cancer.

Now, in regard to our spiritual life, we can put things in our lives that block out the Son of God.

You see, we have so much stuff that He can't touch our lives and transform us. Let Jesus shine on you and you will shine for Him!

William MacDonald summed it up like this for us, **"In our physical universe, the sun is always shining. We do not always see it, but the reason for that is that something has come between the sun and us. So it is with the gospel. The light of the gospel is always shining. God is always seeking to shine into the hearts of men. But Satan puts various barriers between unbelievers and God. It may be the cloud of pride, or of rebellion, or of self-righteousness, or any one of a hundred other things. But all of these serve effectively to hinder the light of the gospel from shining in. Satan simply does not want men to be saved."**

I guess you can say that men are by nature set against Christ by their spiritual blindness.

In other words, we see how deeply fallen human nature really is. God came into the world to reveal Himself to man, the Creator showing Himself to creation, and they did not recognize Him.

And, like I have said, even His own people, the Jews, refused Him, rejected Him. They had the Scriptures to testify of who the Messiah will be, what He was to do, and Jesus fulfilled those things, but they still rejected Him.

You see, if salvation was based solely upon intellect, all would be saved. It is not a matter of the intellect but a matter of the heart.

Paul makes that point very clear in Romans 1:18-25 where he says, **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”**

And we see that very thing today where people suppress the truth of God, they don't want to be accountable to God, and they worship themselves, the creation instead of the Creator and their lives reflect that.

And Paul goes on to say in Romans since they have said no to God, God gave them over to do all the evil that is in their heart. And look at us today, we flaunt sin and snub our noses towards God!

Now as dark as that is, never forget that there is light, and we see that in the next two verses as we look at – ***THE ACCEPTANCE!***

As one writer reminds us, ***“The end of the story is not the tragedy of rejection, but the grace of acceptance.”*** (Morris) Amen to that!

### VERSES 12-13

I hope you see the wonderful news that we see in these verses. You see, it doesn't matter what you have done. It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter if you feel like the most sinful person in this world.

God has a gift for you, and it is not based on how good you are. It is really based upon how bad you are! I know that is shocking, but God does not extend this gift of eternal life, a grace gift because we deserve it, but because our sin has separated us from God and we don't deserve it!

Now you may be thinking, ***“Who is this gift for?”***

We don't have to guess. We are told that this gift is for, **“as many as received Him . . . to those who believe in His name.”**

In other words, this gift is for everyone, none are excluded.

This is not like the Reformed Theology people or Calvinists who try to tell us that God created some for heaven, the elect; and He created the others for Hell, those whom He did not elect!

There is a choice to make on our part and thus, anyone who goes to Hell goes there by his own choice, you can't blame God!

And I do love this, and I thank God for this word "**but.**"

Yes, some rejected Him, **BUT** others received Him, each one had a choice to make, as I have said.

Now where some get confused is the last part of John 1:12, where John wrote, "**... even to those who believe in His name.**" What does that mean?

First of all, it has to mean more than believing that Jesus is Almighty God, because James tells us that even the demons believe that, and they are not saved! (James 2:19)

Then what does this mean?

By believing in Jesus, it means that you not only believe that He is Almighty God who became flesh and dwelt among us, paying in full the penalty for our sins. But that you trust in Him and obey His Word to you.

Now again, some freak out by that and they feel that I am speaking about the Law and we need to be saved by keeping the Law of God.

Not at all. Because I am putting my trust in Jesus, because I love Him, I want to do those things that show that I love Him and being obedient to Him does just that. It does not save you, but it is the evidence that you are saved!

Let me share a few verses with you and you will see what I mean.

In James 1:22 James tells us, “**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**” Knowing the Word of God is important, but we then must take it a step further and obey what God is telling us, be doers of the Word!

In James 2:17-20 we are told, “**Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**”

Once again, the idea here is that if you have true faith the outflow of that faith will be manifested by good works. I hope that makes sense.

And just in case that you missed what James is saying, I think he nails it when he speaks of the demons believing in the true and living God – they have faith is the point that James is making but they are not saved by this faith!

What do I mean by that or what is James saying about these demons and faith?

James’ point is that passive faith is not the kind of faith that saves, and he points to the demons who believe the facts about Jesus and the gospel. They understand that He is the virgin born Son of God who died for the sins of mankind and rose from the dead. But they are not going to heaven!



Thus, they know who God is, and they know their final destiny, but they are not saved, like I have said.

Their faith is empty because they have no works, there is nothing to show that their faith is real! Their faith is not active!

You can't see faith without works is the point that James is making here!

But then James speaks of the faith of Abraham and he seems to be saying that we need both faith and works to be saved. In fact, in verse 24 he says, "**You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**"

So it seems like James is saying that we need good works to be saved. Not at all.

Listen to what one writer had to say regarding this. He wrote,

Words take on different meanings according to context. This is true in any language, no less the Greek of the New Testament. The primary meaning of *dikaioō* is "to make righteous," or "to justify," notably before God. This is the way Paul is without doubt using it in Romans.

James, however, is using the verb in the sense of being justified *before men*. That is, you are justified before God by your faith, but that faith is justified, or vindicated, before men by your works.

There is precedent for the use of *dikaioō* in this way. In Luke 7:25 (parallel in Matthew 11:19), Jesus points out to his audience that John the Baptist came eating no bread and drinking no wine and people said he has a demon. The Son of Man, however, eats and drinks, and he's told he's demon-possessed and is called a friend of tax collectors and sinners. "Wisdom," he concludes, "is justified by all her children [or "deeds" in Matthew's account]." That is, the fruit of wisdom shows what wisdom is truly about. Wisdom is vindicated, or shown to be right, by what wisdom produces.

This fits the context of James: faith is justified, or vindicated, by works. He's not saying that you are not justified before God by faith alone. He's saying that the true nature of your faith is not demonstrated by faith alone, but by the works that pour from that faith.

- <https://bit.ly/3dedcy8>

Exactly! And thus, **“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”** John 1:12.

Now, there are those out there who believe you can get into heaven by many different ways and John gives us three ways we can't enter into this relationship with Jesus.

First of all, it is not by blood, that is, it is not through our parents because they were Christians. It is not because you were born a Catholic or Lutheran or Baptist and so on. It is not passed down through your bloodline. Keep in mind that is what the Jews believed, because they were children of Abraham they were saved. Not true, it is – ***NOT OF BLOOD!***

Secondly, it is not by the will of our flesh, you can't work your way into heaven, you can't be good enough to get into heaven. There are those around Resurrection time, in Mexico and in the Philipians and I am sure other parts of the world as well, who will hang on a cross or whip themselves, crawl for miles on their hands and knees hoping to endure the pain and get in good with God so they can earn their salvation. It is not going to happen because it is – ***NOT THE WILL OF THE FLESH!***

And thirdly, it is not by the will of man or to put it another way, you can't save anyone, you can share the Word of God, but that is as far as you can go, God will do the rest. As much as I wish my family would turn to Christ, I cannot proclaim that they are Christians apart from receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! Thus, it is – ***NOT THE WILL OF MAN!***

We must be born of God and thus, we must come to Him on His terms and not what we think is right!

Kind of depressing and yet, there is that word again, “**but**” and it says, “**but of God.**”

You see, it is God’s sovereign will, and the reality is, God desires all to be saved but not all will receive it, that free gift of life that is found in Jesus!

Peter said in II Peter 3:9, “**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**”

And I think Paul makes this very clear when He says in Ephesians 2:8-9, “**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**”

We are saved by the grace of God, it is a free gift that is extended to us and that gift is wrapped in Christ and, all we need to do is receive it by faith.

Remember again what John said, “**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.**” John 1:12.

So we have seen this morning that – ***JOHN IS NOT THE LIGHT!***

And the idea here is that John was a witness of Jesus, he pointed people to Jesus and not to himself and we must do the same. The light of Christ has come and as we come to saving faith that light is in us as Jesus is in us, and we are to shine for Him!

We have seen that – ***THE LIGHT HAS COME!***

God Almighty has come and, in the Incarnation, He became fully flesh and yet fully God. He was the light that came shining into this dark world, and, as I have said, we now shine that light of Christ to this dark world as well!

We also looked at – ***THE REJECTION!***

And yes, the Jews rejected their Messiah but make no mistake about it, Jews and Gentiles today are doing the same thing even though the light of Christ is shining. It is their choice.

And the wonderful thing is, there is – ***THE ACCEPTANCE!***

The light has come and shown in our hearts and we have come to saving faith!

If you have not come to Christ, I would encourage you to repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life! Because “**In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**” John 1:4.