

Refuge City Church — December 11, 2022
The Light of the World
“Light and Life” Part 2 [Hebrews 1:1-3]

Last Week:

- We began by talking about how important it is to position ourselves to receive the proper light of Christ within.
 - We have been given purpose & responsibility to let our light shine.
 - Yet, we must be careful that we fixate on the proper light, and guard against the deceit of the enemy who would betray us with false light.
 - Ultimately, trust the Lighthouse Keeper!
- **QUESTION FORTODAY:** Do you know the Lighthouse Keeper?!

Introduction

Hebrews 1:1-3, “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. *He is the radiance of the glory of God* and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

- So in desiring to fill our life with the proper light, the light of the world, we need to ask a couple serious questions.
 - The Bible is very clear that we need to seek the face of God.
 - **Psalm 24:1-6**, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.”
 - We see the creation and glory of God.
 - It asks the question as to who is worthy to be in God’s presence?
 - It provides us the answer = *righteousness* that can only come from God.
 - All given freely, if we would seek Him!
 - **Job 5:8**, “As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause,”
 - **Psalm 9:10**, “And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.”
 - **Psalm 105:4**, “Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!”
 - **Amos 5:4**, “For thus says the Lord, ‘Seek me and live.’”
 - **Matthew 6:33**, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
- **QUESTION #1:** Do you truly know Who you are seeking?
 - The God who created all things.
 - **Genesis 1:1**, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

- **Acts 17:24**, “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth...”
- The God whose justice is swift and certain.
 - **Genesis 19:24**, “Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven.”
- The God whose glory is too brilliant to behold.
 - **Exodus 3:6; 33:18,20**, “And he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”... “Moses said, ‘Please show me your glory.’...But, he said, ‘you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.’”
 - **John 1:18**, “No one has ever seen God.”
- The God who is all consuming.
 - **Exodus 24:17**, “Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire.”
 - **Acts 2:2-3**, “And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.”
- The God of power.
 - As seen through the plagues of Egypt, splitting the Red Sea, giving water from a rock, and raising His own Son from the dead.
 - **2 Corinthians 13:4**, “For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God.”
- The God whose presence is a holy gentleness.
 - **1 Kings 19:11-13**, “the sound of a low whisper...And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak...”
- The God whose presence brings revelation.
 - **Isaiah 6:5**, “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips...for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”
- The God whose is Love.
 - **1 John 4:8, 12**, “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love... if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”
- The God whose presence emits glory and power.
 - **Revelations 4:5**, “From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God.”
- **QUOTE**: “As our bodily eye is dazzled, and its power of vision destroyed, by looking directly at the brightness of the sun, so would our whole nature be destroyed by an unveiled sight of the brilliancy of the glory of God.” [C.F. Keil]
- **QUESTION #2**: What is it we are trying to experience when we are truly seeking the face of God? [Justice, glory, power, brilliance, revelation, gentleness, humility, love? Because that’s who He is!]
- **The Ultimate Revelation**: As Isaiah experienced, we are a sinful people, unworthy to be in the presence of God, in need of salvation! [Psalm 24...clean hands, pure heart]
- This is what it took for Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, and all the others...
 - To experience the presence of God is to humble yourself in the realization that we need *all* of Him...His power and authority, His indwelling Spirit, and His Word to accomplish all that He wants us to do.

- **1 Timothy 6:15-16**, "...he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, *who dwells in unapproachable light*, whom no one has ever seen or can see..."
- So, we are to **seek** the face of God, which no one has ever seen, or can handle, that exists in unapproachable light... got it!
- **The Ultimate Redemption:** He made Himself approachable through His Son Jesus.
 - God is unseen and unapproachable. Jesus is seen and is the most approachable person who ever lived. The Holy Spirit is unseen, takes up residence inside of us, and by His power, we come to know who He is.
 - This is exactly why Jesus declared...
 - **John 14:6-11**, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."
 - He is the way to God. He is the truth of God. He is life in God.
 - In a world that claims multiple pathways to God and/or Heaven, we have the opportunity to share with them the truth.
 - Jesus declared that He is the Way. Not one of the ways. Not another option that people can choose from. He is *the only* Way!
 - **John 1:3-5**, "God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his **life** brought **light** to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."
 - The God we seek that resides in unapproachable light, *is* the Christ who has been revealed to us in the flesh. He *is* the only way to seek God!
 - **Hebrews 11:6**, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
 - What reward do we receive in having faith, seeking Him, and believing He exists = **Light and Life**.
 - Christ Himself, who is *light*, resides in us.
 - It's the spiritual light of wisdom and understanding of who He is.
 - Christ Himself, who is *life*, grants us salvation and eternal life.
 - **Acts 17:28**, "*In him we live and move and have our being.*"

The Beauty Of It All

- We serve a God in whose presence we cannot bear to contain. He is thunder, lightning, fire, earth-quaking power, in unapproachable light.
- Yet, He gave us His only Son who assures us that He is the only Way to everlasting life. That if we know Jesus, we know the Father who sent Him.
 - **Ephesians 1:7-11**, "*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*"
- Did you happen to catch the emphasis there?!

- All things are made, done, completed, and purposed for Him and Him alone. And we get to be a part of it all if we choose to seek Him and abide in Him on a daily basis.

Conclusion

- **Hebrews 1:3**, “He is the radiance of the glory of God.”
 - The Greek word *apaugasma* [a pow gas mah], translated radiance/brightness, refers to what shines out from the source of light.
 - We can not stand and look directly at the sun. It would burn our retinas and cause severe damage over time.
 - However, we can see everything by the radiant light that comes from the sun!
- **Video: Solar Lights**
 1. In order for solar lights to properly operate, they need to absorb light.
 2. When that light is absorbed, it’s turned into electrical energy; meaning it turns what was negative into something positive.
 3. As long as the solar cell is in the presence of the Sun’s rays, that energy is stored up, ready to be used for a greater purpose.
 4. That’s when the photoreceptor kicks into action; once it detects darkness, it releases its light source.
 5. And to continue to be used for the purpose it was created for, it needs to remain in the ultimate source of light to absorb as much of the sun’s radiance as possible, day after day after day.
- **John 1:3-5**, “God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”
- We need to soak up the rays of His infecting presence every day.
- Let that fill us — and then, and only then — we can let our light shine!
 - **Matthew 5:14-16**, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Closing Prayer/Response Worship