

Life, Light & Logos

John 1:1-5

- Today we're going to begin a series together that will take us all the way to Easter. For the next few months, we are going to walk through the Gospel of John together.
- But to kick off this series, entitled: This is Jesus, the sermon portion is going to be a bit shorter, as we would like to spend some time in reflection, prayer, and communion to kick off this new year together.
- And the reason we're going to do this specific series for the first series that we do as a church, is because we're in the midst of this great self-awareness and self-improvement movement now-a-days but I'm convinced, that you will never truly know who you are until you first know who Jesus is.
- As creation, we would better understand ourselves if we better understand our Creator.
- ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* -John 1:1-5 (ESV)**
- PRAY
- I'm one of those weird guys that actually likes the lights to be on in the house whenever I'm home. Whenever I was a single man, and I was home, all of the overhead lights, the florescent, the brightest lights in the rooms where I would walk through would be on and stay on until I went to bed. It just seemed more life-full whenever it was bright in the house. But ever since Ive been married, my house is no longer lit by overhead

lights, but only lamps. And this took some getting used to, but I kind of understood why because...

- I remember going over to a family from the Church's house years ago. And when I got there all of the lights were off in the house, and the ones that were on were dim. So out of habit, I was walking from the kitchen into the living room and flipped on a few lights not even really thinking about it. And then the daughter, who was one of my students at the time, came running in saying, "NO NO NO!" She flipped the lights back off, and then said, "It looks cleaner when it's dark!"
- It also makes sense why the classier the restaurant, the more dim the lights are...because the flaws and imperfections aren't so easy seen when it's darker.
- I believe we as human beings have this struggle and live within this tension of being drawn to the light, but at the same time being comfortable in the dark.
 - And by dark I don't necessarily mean just evil acts, hidden addictions, or twisted thoughts. Even though those do exist and play a part, but the dark is also the mundane, the minimum, the casual life.
- The word **Darkness** in this passage can actually be translated as "**The Ignorance of Divine Things**"
 - We've heard that "ignorance is bliss" so if we don't really think about it, then we don't have to change we can just keep things the way that they are.
- But John tells us in this passage that God, through Jesus, came to bring Light.
- This Word Light, in the Greek means: "truth and its knowledge," "that which is exposed to the view of all, openly, publicly," "reason, mind: the power of understanding moral and spiritual truth."
- To put it simply, **Light: The Truth and Knowledge of Divine Things.**

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- *You see Jesus did not come to merely show people how bad their lives are, but more-so to show how Good Life with Him is.*
- He came to bring the illumination of all that God is and what He offers.
 - And what He offers is LIFE! And He knows all about really living, because He is the one that created life in the first place!
- Verse 3 tells us that everything that was made, was made from the Life that was in Him. And this Life that He offers, that John says, is the LIGHT of humanity is the greek Word **Zoé: “The Absolute Fullness of Life”**
Can also be called the Abundant Life
- He came to bring the fullest life possible, to light up our lives with His Goodness by showing us the Fullness of God.
- But sometimes, we would rather just BE, than actually SEE
 - And most of our lives, throughout our year, we’re not really thinking we need to change, we don’t see ourselves as living in Darkness, we’re good with where we’re at
- But there are those moments, that make us think a little bit more.
 - There are seasons such as Christmas, where the words Hope and Joy are thrown around a little more than usual and it makes us think about what it might take to attain True Hope and True Joy.
 - Then we get to the New Year and we start thinking a little bit more about What it would actually take to live the best Life Possible
- So where do we turn to answer the biggest and deepest of life’s questions?
 - Do we turn to a new resolution, that may last a month or two, Do we turn to a new social media trend, a podcast series, a self-help book? So we turn to a new diet or exercise routine? Do we turn to a form a meditation to try and figure it out on our own through some sort of self realization??

- John addresses this directly in arguably the most famous prologue of any literary work ever written in human history when He says in verse 1, ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” -John 1:1 (ESV)***
- Now, if you’ve grown up in church culture speaking Christianese, you’ve probably never really understood what this passage was saying.
 - Because Christianese says: *The Word: The Bible / The Light: Good / The Darkness: Evil*
 - However we’ve already discussed that the Darkness, is the ignorance of Divine Things and the Light is the Truth of Divine Things. And “The Word” actually comes from the Greek word: LOGOS.
 - John, borrowed this Word from Greek Philosophers
- You see, the Greeks believed that the world had a rational and moral order to it, and the meaning of life was found in contemplating and discerning this “order of nature” that they called the Logos
 - The **Logos** was thought to be **the meaning and purpose of life**
 - So the common thought was that the purpose and meaning of life was found in thinking about how the world worked on it’s own.
 - And John says, you’re right! The purpose and meaning of life is found in contemplating the Logos, however you just have the wrong idea of what the Logos is. Rather, WHO the Logos is.
- And John, as the French Philosopher Luc Ferry once stated, changed the course of human thought by introducing the idea that the purpose and meaning of life was not found in a principle, philosophy, ideology, or any abstract idea of rational thought.
- But rather, the meaning of life was found in a Person. Someone Who existed before creation, Someone Who made everything, and then chose to walk the earth.

- This was such a radical and shocking statement that most of the intellects would have thought to have been absolutely CRAZY, but the truth of this statement revolutionized the world.
 - Because this Person, this Word, this Logos, that John describes, is where so many of our core values originated.
- Whether or not you believe in Jesus, there is not a single person here that has not had their lives affected by Him.
- You see, He was the originator of the idea that every single man woman and child, regardless of race, gender, or status was created in the image of God and therefore, every human being living and breathing on the planet has dignity and rights.
 - We will see examples of this all throughout the Book of John.
- And you know without Jesus' teaching and leading, there would never be cries for social justice or equality. There never would have been any pursuit of love and caring for all.
 - That is also why those movements become so chaotic whenever Jesus is taken out it.
 - Because He is the foundation of those movements, and whenever you remove a foundation the structure comes crashing down.
- Even the "Golden Rule" that so many societies base their moral standards around originated from His teaching on the Sermon on the Mount.
- "Doing unto Others as you would have them do unto you," that simple teaching originated from Jesus, and was still so monumental because at one point even THAT was a radical and crazy thought.
 - Even in pre-christian Europe when the monks attempted to incorporate the Teachings of Jesus into society, the social elites thought it was a ludicrous idea to care for the poor, or to love your enemies.

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- They said society would fall apart, because that's not the way the world works!
 - Only the strong survive, the strong are supposed to prey on the weak, the poor were born to suffer! That's just their place in the World!
- In much of the Old Testament in Scripture, we see a description of what the world was like before the revelation of Christ. Before the Light of Life was revealed!
 - The world was a place where only the first-born sons were successful and significant
 - Only woman who had a lot of children were honored and had rights
- But God began to break down that system by choosing to use the younger siblings like Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
- He chose the barren woman to honor like Sarah, Rebecca, and Hannah!
- And then Jesus, who Colossians says, is the Fullness of God in Bodily form, came caring for the outcasts, and teaching to love your neighbor as yourself, to love and pray for your enemies, to care for those who cannot care for themselves.
- You see the essence of what sets apart the message of Jesus from any other religious and philosophical message is that: In order to attain the highest life possible, it's not found in what you know, but Who you know. It's not found in what you can do, but what He has done for you.
- *He came to save! He was born in a cave, He was Killed and Betrayed, but then He broke out of the grave.*
 - And you don't have to go looking for Him, because He already came looking for you. He came to turn on the Light and give you the fullest life possible by giving you the Truth of Divine Things. The Truth of Himself.

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- So many religious and philosophical teachings try to break down all of the things you need to do in order to get closer to God and obtain the highest form of living.
- But the message of Jesus is: that the reality is, there is nothing you could ever do to get to God, so He came to you. There is nothing you could do to truly better yourself, so He came to do it for you. He did for us what we could never do for ourselves.
- He says if you come to the Light of Life, I will give you the highest form of life possible. Not through material possessions or physical abilities. But through a deeper understanding of the God who made you. The God who loves you. The God who can change you. The God who can save you from yourself.
- And all you have to do is look around. We can see His fingerprints everywhere!
 - The bible says, the very sky proclaims the work of His hands
 - The stars declare His glory, The wind speaks of His Goodness
 - The Mountains declare His Majesty
- His love can be seen in the face of stranger
- The passion for Justice and Freedom is a glimpse of His Heart.
- Life, really living, starts with Him, was introduced by Him, and initiated by Him.
- Once we are fed up with the ignorance of the Darkness, all we have to do is look and listen.
 - Because He's right here- right now, and He's speaking in and through almost everything.
- All you have to do is open your heart to Him, let the light in, and embrace His heart for you.

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- And even we as Christians can grow callus to this truth, and revert back to trying to change ourselves or better ourselves in our own power.
- We goes through seasons where we act like His presence and love in our lives is based on our performance.
 - But there is no good deed we could ever do to earn His love, and there is no bad deed we could ever commit to lose His love.
 - That's one of the reasons why this is the highest form of living because it takes all of the pressure off of us! We just get to live freely in the full acceptance of an All-Mighty God! And then the life we live is in response to a good God.
 - But we still struggle as controlling, self-centered human beings...that's why
- In the New Testament, Paul gives us instruction on observing the tradition of Communion, not just to create another religious ritual, but for believers to be able to intentionally and tangibly, remember what Jesus has done for us through His life and death.
- The bread symbolizing His body. God in flesh, that physically came to the planet, and had His body broken for us. The cup, we serve juice, symbolizing His blood shed to cover all of our sins, faults, and failures.
- This is a time where we as a church family, and individual families can intentionally remember what He's done for us in the past, cling to Him in the present, and look forward to the Hope of Eternity we have for the future.
- So we're going to have a time where the elements are distributed, then I will officiate us partaking of the elements, and then we will have an extended time of prayer. And I want to encourage you to intentionally pray with your family. That's why we have some of the children in here with you. So they can pray and partake with you. Intentionally pray through those 3 phases together...

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- Thank Him for what He did on the cross and for what it means to you.
- Thank Him for being with you now and all that His presence means to you.
- Thank Him for the Hope of Eternity that you have and what it means to you to have Heaven to look forward to.