

The Light of the World

John 8:12

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."

Light in the Bible has some very metaphorical usages. Even when real actual light is being referred to, quite often there is also a figurative meaning that is implied.

The very first thing we find God creating was light.

Ge 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

In this passage we see that the earth was without form and void and all there was was darkness on the face of the earth until God created light, and God saw that the light was good.

Light is set off from darkness. Darkness is continuously spoken of in a bad sense. Jesus said that men love darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

Even one of the 10 plagues upon Egypt was darkness that could be felt. While the Hebrews had light in all of their dwellings. Ex 10:22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. 23 They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. NKJV

In the book of Job, light and darkness are contrasted 9 different times. In 8 of those times light is good and darkness means evil or bad. Here is one example.

Job 30:26 But when I looked for good, evil came to me; And when I waited for light, then came darkness. NKJV

Even in Psalms and Ecclesiastes the contrast continues. Eccl 2:13 Then I saw that wisdom excels folly As light excels darkness. NKJV

It is in Isaiah that we come to the clear understanding that light represents goodness and darkness represents evil.

Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; NKJV

Isa 9:2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. NKJV

But under the teachings of Jesus we find the clearest examples.

Matt 6:22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! NKJV

Luke 1:79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." NKJV

John 3:19-21 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. NKJV

So John emphasizes this theme in his gospel.

John 1:4-5 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. NKJV

The epistle writers also proclaim how that those who follow Jesus have come out of darkness into the light.

1 Peter 2:9-10 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. NKJV

1 Thess 5:5 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Eph 5:8-9 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

2 Cor 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. NKJV

I. So then Jesus is the one and only source of spiritual light.

A. 1 John 2:16-17 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. NKJV

B. 1 Cor 1:20-25 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. NKJV

II. Those who follow Him will not walk in darkness.

A. People stumble and fall when they cannot see, when they do not understand.

B. The world does not have the answers to life's questions, as a matter of fact they do not even have the right questions.

III. They will instead have the light of life.

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