



Loving The Light of Christ

Psalm 27 Ephesians 5:8-17 Matt 5:13-16

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Light is associated with God almost everywhere you look in Holy Scripture! One of the most fundamental things we learn about God is that *God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.* ^{1 John 1:5} God is holy, pure and righteous; there is no sin nor evil in Him at all.

The very first thing that God created was light ^{Genesis 1:3} ; the light shined in the darkness and brought life to the world. And then *God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night . . . and God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.* • ^{Genesis 1:16-18}

In the Exodus, God was present with His people in a *magnificent and majestic* form of light: *the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.* This *miraculous light* led, protected and comforted God's People on their Exodus journey.

Throughout the Prophets, the coming Messiah is described in terms of light, for instance, the prophet Isaiah wrote: *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.* ^{Isaiah 9:2} That light was the Messiah!

Finally, in Heaven, the eternal city of God *has no need of sun nor moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb of God.* ^{Revelation 21:23}

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point us to Jesus,
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Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I AM** the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

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 1:4-5

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The **Light** images in Scripture are *compared and contrasted* to darkness. The most obvious comparison is that of sin --> sin is a *terrible darkness* that *blinds* us and leaves us *lost* in this world without God. Here is one of countless examples:

But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. 1 John 2:11

In the *darkness* of sin, you are **burdened** with guilt, **overwhelmed** with shame, and you are **under the power** of the devil. You are **facing** eternal death and the **dread** final judgment. You are **blind** to spiritual things and **separated** and **lost** from God.

But Jesus comes into the world as the **Light** to open your eyes to His eternal salvation and to bring you back to the Lord our God. The **Light of Salvation** is knowing and understanding who Jesus is and believing that He is your Savior. The **Light of the Gospel** is the gift of salvation. God shines **His light** into your **sin darkened** life and rescues you **gloom** of guilt, death, and final judgment.

The **Light of Christ's salvation** shines in only **THREE PLACES** in this dark world.

1. It shines in the waters of **Holy Baptism**, where the Holy Spirit opens your eyes so that you are no longer blinded in sin. In Holy Baptism, the Lord *calls you out of the darkness and into His marvelous light* 1 Peter 2:9.
2. The *Light of Christ* shines through **His Holy Word**, specifically, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, where you hear about His death, burial, and resurrection that leads you to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the *Light of eternal salvation!*
3. The *Light of Christ* shines in **Holy Communion**, where Christ gives you His very own Body and Blood in bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins. That's His guarantee to you! In this Meal, He promises to dwell and live within you. The *Light of Christ* is within you and shines through you!

The *Light of Christ* intersects with your life in God's powerful Word and His precious Sacraments. **That is His Promise.** That is where salvation and life are to be found. Holy Baptism, Holy Scripture, and Holy Communion are the three places where God has promised and placed the *Light of eternal Salvation* for us.

LIGHT AS TRUTH OVER LIES

Another way that the *Light of Christ* is taught to us is as **truth**; the truth of God's Holy Word is a *light* for us to live our lives by.

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

We live in a world that is full of *lies and deceptions*. Those lies and deceptions are pictured as *darkness*. It's pretty easy to see the *darkness* in our culture:

- ⇒ *All things* associated with the **homosexual agenda** IS DARKNESS
- ⇒ The **transgender confusion** that will reap destruction for decades to come IS DARKNESS
- ⇒ The intentional pitting of one group of people against another group of people; the **divisions** seem irreparable, THIS IS DARKNESS
- ⇒ The dismantling of the family and denying the significance of mothers and fathers and husbands and wives IS DARKNESS

- ⇒ The myriad of reasons for **killing the unborn** IS DARKNESS
- ⇒ The **increasing persecution** against the morals and values of God's 10 Commandments IS DARKNESS

The DARKNESS is everywhere. St Paul teaches us that *the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the Light of the Gospel*
2 Corinthians 4:4

By the grace of God you are no longer blinded; by the mercy of God you are not lost in the darkness of these lies and deceptions. God has revealed the truth to you in His Holy Word and Commandments; they are like *a Light that shines* over your life so that you can see how you are to live and walk. **Jesus minces no words when He says that the world is darkness; and He is light.** There is no neutral ground; there is no twilight, if you will. No dawn. No dusk. You are either in the darkness of this world or you are in the light of Christ. Be sure not to deceive yourself. The two are mutually exclusive.

If you are caught up in the ways of this world; or if your thinking lines up with the darkness of this world rather than the Light of God's Holy Word, then repent! Turn around and flee from the darkness! The darkness of the world will destroy you! Only in Christ and the Light of His Word do you find life and salvation! Only in Christ and the Light of His Word do you find truth, morals, and godly values! Don't be fooled by the world; don't be lured into its ways! Turn from it, confess it to God, and trust in His forgiveness!

God has rescued you from the darkness; **don't go back into it.** You have been given the *Light of Christ*: you know God's grace and mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ! He has opened your eyes in Holy Baptism; He shines His *Light of Truth* into your life through His Holy Word; and the *Light of Christ* dwells within you through Holy Communion: **live in that light!**

*You were once darkness,
 but now you are light in the Lord.
 Live as children of light –*

Ephesians 5:8

AMEN!
