

John 1:8-10
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John 1:8" He was not that **light** but was sent to bear witness of that **Light** ."

JOHN THE BAPTIST 's ministry was not to BE **LIGHT** but to bear witness of the **LIGHT**

In John 5:35 we read " He was a burning and a shining **light** (lamp), and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his **light** ."

The word used for **light** in this text is actually a **LAMP**. Not the same thing as **LIGHT** itself. And justifiably so for JOHN 1:8 "he was not that **light** but was sent to bear witness of that **light** ."

Φωστήρ - phōstēr - *foce-tare'* From [G5457](#); **an illuminator**, that is, (concretely) a *luminary*, or (abstractly) *brilliancy*: - **light** .

And he did that which he was sent to do!! That is why Christ could say of him in

Lk.7: 28 " for I say unto you, among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than JOHN THE BAPTIST: but he that is least in the KINGDOM OF GOD is greater than he."

But what does Christ mean when He says that " he that is least in the KINGDOM OF GOD is greater than he"?

The KINGDOM OF GOD here as in Christ's conversation with Nicodemus **Jn.3: 5-7** refers to **sphere of salvation entered into only by the new birth**. That is , those who accept the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, what Christ is saying is that among all the prophets that ever lived up to this point in time, JOHN THE BAPTIST is without a doubt the Greatest.

But with the coming of THE LOGOS, God being made flesh, mankind entered a **new dispensation**, a **new testament**, a **new covenant** period in which it was **possible to KNOW GOD through faith in CHRIST, God in the flesh**.

But what of those of whom Christ refers to as being greater than those who preceded them?

LOOK WITH ME FOR A MOMENT AT

Acts 13: 47 "..lo we turn to the gentiles,: For so hath the lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a **LIGHT** of the nations, that thou shouldst be for salvation to the ends of the earth.

Here Paul and Barnabas are told that they are to be A **LIGHT** , not just A LAMP. Here it is the same word used to refer to Christ in **Jn. 1**. The commission of Christ's followers after His coming to dwell among Men as THE **LIGHT OF THE WORLD** is that they should be like HIM, - to be what He was, A **LIGHT IN DARKNESS. SHINING BRIGHTER AND WITH GREATER CLARITY THAN EVEN JOHN THE BAPTIST** .

When Christ spoke of John the Baptist in **LK. 7: 24**

TURN TO **Lk. 7: 24-27**. READ FROM TEXT.

What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

Luk 7:25 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.

Luk 7:26 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.

Luk 7:27 This is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

There stood a man in the middle of nowhere wearing rough clothing, condemning all of the religious establishment of his day, eating food that to say the least was unconventional, and the multitudes flocked to him.

But he was just a LAMP. HOW MUCH MORE ARE WE CAPABLE OF TODAY AS LIGHT ITSELF?

It was not just Paul and Barnabas who were given this MINISTRY OF LIGHT .

Eph. 5:8 "for ye (ALL OF US WHO KNOW THE LORD) were once darkness, but now are ye LIGHT IN THE LORD: WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT ."

Once we too were blinded by Satan.

We were in and of darkness but now

II Cor. 4: 6 " ...God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give (us) the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of JESUS CHRIST."

II Cor. 4: 6. NOW WE ARE LIGHT !

But there is a PROBLEM.

II Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

I. PROBLEM = some Christians don't evidence the "light of Life."

REASON = THEY MAY BE TRYING TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Jesus said:

Jn. 8: 12 " I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Some of those who have trusted Christ as Savior are not now WALKING as CHILDREN OF LIGHT ."

Eph. 5: 8 CHRIST said. "for we were once darkness but now are ye LIGHT in the Lord: WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT ."

The problem MAY BE, that many believers ARE TRYING TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE.

Lets look at : **II Cor. 6: 14** "be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath **light** with darkness?"

POSSIBLE REASON WHY SOME NOT BEING AN EFFECTIVE **LIGHT** . YOU CAN'T HAVE BOTH **LIGHT** AND DARKNESS AT THE SAME TIME. ONE WILL OVERRULE THE OTHER. Sometimes you have to walk away from worldly friends in order to walk in the **light** .

A **POSSIBLE SOLUTION** to the dilemma may be found in **II Cor. 6: 17-18.**" Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

God desires us to be **separate from the things of darkness** because we are His Sons.

Jn. 12: 36 While ye have **light** , believe in the **light** , that ye may be the sons of **light** ..."

And as such we need to be WALKING AS CHILDREN OF **LIGHT** .

1 Thes. 5:5 " ye are all CHILDREN OF **LIGHT** , and children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Unfortunately, many Christians today are afraid for people to find that out about them so they keep on doing what **Rm. 12:2** prohibits, " **being conformed**" or masquerading as "those of the world"

For those here this morning who may be guilty of this **Rm. 13:12** has a solemn warning.

Rm. 13: 12 " The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of **light** ."

We need to " let our **light** so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our father who is in heaven."

That is what JOHN THE BAPTIST did.

In **LK. 7: 29** we read. "AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT HEARD HIM, AND THE PUBLICANS, JUSTIFIED GOD, BEING BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM OF JOHN."

(Don't get too lathered up about the Publicans – they were not born again publicans or they would have been re-publicans. They were tax Collectors – like the Democrats! 18 new taxes just with Obama Care)

JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS NOT ASHAMED TO DO THAT WHICH GOD HAD SENT HIM TO DO.

How about you this morning?

As people behold your walk with God does it cause them to shout glory to God or to thank Him that they are not so Hypocritical as you?

Paul said in **Phil. 2:14-16**

Phil. 2:14-16 " Do all things without murmuring and disputing, That ye may be blameless and harmless, children of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,

AMONG WHOM YE SHINE AS **LIGHTS** in the world, Holding forth the word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain."

Light = PHOSTER **light** giver. From [G5457](#); an *illuminator*, that is, (concretely) a *luminary*, or (abstractly) *brilliancy*: - **light** .

my friend, ARE YOU SHINING AS A **LIGHT** IN THIS DARK WORLD? (are you a '**light** giver?)

I said that there was a PROBLEM and that the PROBLEM = SOME CHRISTIANS DON'T EVIDENCE THE **LIGHT** OF LIFE. The reason for this is because THEY MAY BE TRYING TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE. ERGO living like they were "of the world"

I suggested A POSSIBLE SOLUTION. That is, to separate yourself from the snares and entanglements of this world and WALK as SONS of **Light** .

But there is another side of the same problem.

II. PROBLEM= Some people don't Evidence the **Light** of Life:

REASON: IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DO.

Our first group of people were TRYING TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE.

That is to live apart from God's daily moment by moment guidance and still be a **Light** unto the world.

But here we have a group of people who are not EVIDENCING THE **LIGHT** OF LIFE because it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for them to do so under any circumstance.

Look back at our text **JOHN 1:8-11**.

Jesus Christ is the true **light** that came for the express purpose of giving life to men.

The purpose of Redeeming that which was His own.

v.11"he came unto His own, and His own received him not."

The LOGOS made the world and was in the world and the world knew Him not (v.10).

He was **UNRECOGNIZED** by the world but **REJECTED** by His own Specific Chosen Nation.

Several months ago, we looked into several parables-

Math. 21: 33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

Mat 21:38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

Mat 21:39 And they caught him, and cast *him* out of the vineyard, and slew *him*.

Mat 21:40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

ILLUSTRATION: With a name like Woody in an alphabetical world you almost get used to being last. But as a child it hurts to be the last to be picked for whatever reason.

All you McAllisters, McAlisters and Maddoxes and Moore sat comfortably right square in the middle of the alphabet, content to never be called first – but never last . . .

Jesus Christ knows what humiliation is all about.

Although He is the creator and sustainer of the universe, He entered the human race by being born in a stable, for men found no room for Him in the inn.

He grew up in an humble home and in a despised village where his own brothers misunderstood him.

The religious leaders also hated Him:

and finally when he was arrested and put on trial, his own disciples forsook him and the multitude clamored for his death by crucifixion." DB Dec. 23, 69.

That my dear friend is what is meant by **v 10-12**. REREAD

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW HIM OR THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED HIM CANNOT EVIDENCE THE LIGHT of life IN THEIR LIFE.

YOU cannot live the CHRISTIAN life apart from CHRIST!!!

You can never turn over enough new leaves to be a New Creature.

John 1:12-13 Is the **ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION**

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The evening news has recently been carrying the story of two courtroom dramas. The first, in Phoenix, is the story of a young woman who killed her lover and claims that she acted in self defense.

The other is the story of the Olympic “blade runner” in South Africa who shot his glamorous girlfriend but claims that he thought she was an intruder in his apartment. In both of those stories, it is very difficult to get to the truth, because there were no eyewitnesses to the killings. The defense can bring in witnesses to testify to basic “good character” of the killers, while the prosecution brings in witnesses to undermine their character. But without any credible witnesses of the killings, the juries are going to have a difficult time deciding the truth. Steven J. Cole, Intro

C. H. Dodd (cited by James Boice, *The Gospel of John* [Zondervan] one-volume ed., p. 49) observes that the apostle John’s three points in 1:6-8 outline the development of the rest of the chapter.

First, John the Baptist is not the light (developed in 1:19-28).

Second, John was sent to bear witness to the light (1:29-34).

Third, John’s aim was that all may believe through him (1:35-51).

Those three points are helpful to keep in mind whenever you have an opportunity to bear witness of Christ.

First, the message is not about you. It’s fine to give your testimony, but keep the focus on Christ.

Second, tell people who Jesus is. John testified that Jesus is the Lord (1:23). John said that he wasn’t worthy to untie the thong of Jesus’ sandal (1:27). He said of Jesus (1:29), “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” He said that Jesus was of higher rank than he (John) because He existed before John, even though John was older than Jesus (1:30). He testified that he saw the Spirit of God descending on Jesus as a dove out of heaven (1:32). He said (1:34), “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.” He said (3:30), “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Tell people who Jesus is. Third, seek to bring people to faith in Jesus. Don’t just have a nice discussion and leave it at that. Encourage people to put their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation before it is too late.

(information from Steven J. Cole)