

## John 1:3-5 – Jesus is the Life and Light of the World

### INTRODUCTION:

1. In the last lesson covering verses 1-2, we looked at how Jesus is the Word and what that means. We saw how...
  - A. He **existed before creation in eternity**—that Jesus is eternal.
  - B. He is the agent of creation and the voice, wisdom, power, and deity of God **manifested in human form**.
  - C. He “was with God,” expressing both Jesus’ accompaniment and eternal relationship with God.
  - D. He “was God,” or how Jesus is divine.
2. Today I want to consider more of John’s words concerning Jesus found John 1:3-5, and do so in hopes of, again, bringing each of us a greater wonder, appreciation, and understanding of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

### BODY:

- I. **“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:3 – NASB).**
  - A. Translations:
    1. ESV – **“All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”**
    2. HCSB – **“All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created.”** (NET)
  - B. From John’s words we understand that...
    1. God the Father created all things *through Jesus*.
      - a. We are not to picture God creating anything without seeing Jesus, *the Word*, as **the agent through whom God did so**.
      - b. Paul presents this clearly in...
        - i. 1 Cor. 8:6 – “yet for us there is but one God, the Father, **from whom are all things** and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, **by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.**”
        - ii. Col. 1:15-17 – “He is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn [superiority in time and rank] of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For **by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things have been created through Him and for Him.** <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.**”).
          - 1) Here Paul describes the fullness of Jesus’ role in creation, being the agent of all creation, while also being the One who sustains the creation.
          - 2) Note also that all things that were created through Him are “for Him” (Col. 1:16).
            - a) Being created *for Jesus* means we have a huge responsibility to Jesus.
            - b) Any use we make of creation, including our lives, that is contrary to Jesus’ will, is a perversion of creation’s purpose! And we will answer for that.
      2. Jesus is God. His nature is divine as is the Father’s.
        - a. Why? Because God created *everything* (Gen. 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”).
        - b. And, since John states that Jesus was just as involved in creation as was God the Father, the inevitable conclusion we are to reach is *Jesus is God*.
      3. Jesus is not created—He is the agent through whom all things were created.
        - a. For Jesus to be created, to be something less than God, as is taught by the Muslims and the J.W.’s, He would have had to create himself.
        - b. Since that cannot be true, Jesus is not a created being. He is eternal and God.

4. Jesus' **mediatorship in creation**—how He *stands between* God the Father and creation—foreshadows Jesus as the **mediator** in God's plan to **save all creation**.
5. So, to know Jesus, *the Word*, is to believe that all creation owes its *existence* and *humble submission* to the *divine* Jesus, the *mediator* between God and creation.

## II. “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men” (John 1:4):

### A. “In Him was **life**”:

1. This does not refer to physical life, which was just addressed, but presents that in Jesus is found a different life—the real, spiritual, eternal life—a theme of John's gospel.
  - a. Jn. 5:26 – “For **as the Father has life in himself**, so he has granted the Son also to **have life in himself**.” (ESV)
  - b. John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly**.”
  - c. John 14:6 – “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and **the life**...”
2. We as Christ's followers should understand that the only life to be lived is a life lived for Jesus and His will—a life lived for the next life promised by God (Heb. 10:36 – “For you have need of endurance, so that when you have **done the will of God** you may receive what is **promised**.”).
  - a. So why do we spend so much time and effort chasing *this life*, protecting *this life*, seeking to grasp for every minute we can have in *this life*?
  - b. *This life* is but a vapor whose quick dissipation cannot be stopped, whose joy and pleasures are fleeting, whose suffering is real and cannot, therefore, ever satisfy our eternal souls.
  - c. Because we are made in the image of our eternal Creator we should know that only by serving and ultimately returning to our Creator can we be made fully whole and satisfied!

### B. “And the life was the **Light** of men”:

1. Here John declares Jesus to be *the enlightenment* of the world, the revelation of divine *knowledge*, that we might understand this life and how to live it.
2. It is not surprising that Jesus' enlightenment is...
  - a. Salvation (Heb. 10:32 – “But remember the former days, when, **after being enlightened**, you endured a great conflict of sufferings”).
  - b. The focus of Paul's prayer for Jesus' disciples (Ephesians 1:18 – “I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you will **know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”).
3. Jesus came so we can KNOW God, the surety of the hope, and the riches of the glory to be received by God's saints!

### C. To truly know Jesus is to know the life He gives and to live in the enlightenment, the knowledge, of life and hope and glory found in Him. Do you know Jesus?

## III. “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:5)

### A. “The Light [Jesus] shines in the darkness”:

 (John alludes to creation)

1. As God's *word* caused *light to shine in the darkness* that covered the world (Gen. 1:3), God by *the Word* has caused the *light of salvation to shine in the darkness of sin* that covers the world.
2. Just as the light God spoke into existence *continually shines* on the world, so the light of Jesus *continually shines* in the world.
3. Through Jesus God has fulfilled his prophecy of bringing continual light into this world (Isa. 60:1-3, 19-20 – “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> “For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. <sup>3</sup> “Nations will come to your

light, and kings to the brightness of your rising...<sup>19</sup> “No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have the **Lord for an everlasting light, and your God for your glory.**”<sup>20</sup> “Your sun will no longer set, nor will your moon wane; **for you will have the Lord for an everlasting light,** and the days of your mourning will be over.”).

- a. Because of Jesus, the Word that became flesh, no one has to live their life in the darkness of sin and the fear and despair it brings.
  - b. This is the beauty, the reality, the wonderful life God’s grace has offered to all!
- B. “The darkness did not comprehend it”:
1. What is meant here? As is often true of John’s words, there are two possibilities.
    - a. NASB, NKJV – “the darkness **did not comprehend it**”– indicates that the *people in darkness* did not *grasp* or *understand* who Jesus was or what He came to do.
    - b. ESV, HCSB, NIV – “the darkness **did/has not overcome it**” – proclaims that despite the great darkness the Light had to enter, Jesus’ *Light* continues to shine—to be victorious over the darkness!
    - c. Both have merit, can equally fit the context, and reveal truth concerning our Lord.
  2. Knowing Jesus means we have the *Light* in our lives that will never be overcome by the darkness that threatens us here in this world.
    - a. There is no threat that can overshadow Christ’s light in my life!
    - b. We need to believe it and show the world and the Lord by living our life in the light, living without the fear that characterizes the lives of those in darkness! (Phil. 2:14-16 – “Do all things without grumbling or disputing; <sup>15</sup> so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **appear as lights in the world,** <sup>16</sup> **holding fast the word of life,** so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”).

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Do you know Jesus? Does your faith and obedience show to the world that you owe your life to Him and that the life and light of Jesus is in you?
  - A. If so, I am thankful and encourage you to grow even more!
  - B. If not, I encourage you to take the steps necessary to come into that life and light. To do that you must trust Jesus as your Savior, repenting of your sin and being converted (changing your mind about sin and turning from it and toward Jesus), confessing your faith in Jesus, and being baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins.
  - C. Or, if you are a Christian and have allowed the life and light of Jesus to dissipate in your life, you must return to Christ today, confessing and repenting of your sins (publicly if they are public sins that have brought reproach on the Lord and His church), and asking for the Lord’s grace and forgiveness.
2. Will you come to Jesus today?