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Recap

- We examined John’s careful and poetic teaching about Christ the Word, how he used a figure of speech called a *chiasm*.
- Refer to the notes from last week to see these *chiasms* in action.
- John in vv. 1-3 combats heretical teachings about Christ, such that Jesus was a lesser god or was somehow not fully God.
- Then we looked at how the Trinity cooperated together in the work of Creation.

In Him Was Life (John 1:1-4)

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 nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

- In verse 4, the Logos is not only the **Creative Word**, He’s the **Life-giving Word**. In just a few more verses, we will also see Him as the **Incarnate Word**.
- John uses the word *life* more than twice as many times as any other book. Throughout *John*, we will see an emphasis on how Jesus the Son of God gives life.

- Jesus has eternal life together with the Father. He doesn't need to **receive** life.
- He is full of life: Peter called Him "the Prince of Life." (Acts 3:15)
- He is the **true and living God**.
- *"Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, nor can they do any good.... But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.... He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens at His discretion."* (See Jer. 10:1 ff.)
- When He wishes to show utmost seriousness, He swears by Himself: *"...as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."* (Numb. 14:21)

Zoe

- New Testament Greek had two words for life. One was *zoe* and the other was *bios*.
- *Zoe* has to do with the power and quality of life, the principle of life itself.
- In Christ was *zoe*. In John 10, Jesus says, "...I have come that they might have *zoe*, and that they might have it more abundantly."
- *"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."* (1 John 5:12) Do we have *zoe* today?
- *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life [zoe], and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."* (Jn. 10:27-28)

His Life Was The Light Of Men (John 1:4)

- Christ is the answer for two great needs we all have: to have life and to have light.
- Light in the Bible speaks of God's Presence and Knowledge.

Does Christ give us light *intellectually* or *spiritually*?

1. Light refers to the way that God created us with intellect and in His image.
2. God gives us the light of conscience.
3. God gives us the light of general revelation. (Romans 1)
4. Another light is the Light of God's Word.
5. Christ Himself brought the Light of the Gospel, and He is the Light of the World.

6. God is still giving us light through Christ today. (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.

7. God will go on giving us His light together with Christ throughout all eternity.

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. (Rev. 21:23) There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. (Rev. 22:5)

The Light Shines In The Darkness (John 1:5)

And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

- This may refer especially to Christ coming into a spiritually dark world.
- John seems to be engaging in wordplay here. The Greek word *katalambano* can mean to grasp and subdue something, or to grasp something mentally.
- Is John saying that the darkness couldn't **comprehend** the light or that it couldn't **overcome** the light?

- There's a battle between light and darkness playing out in John's Gospel.
- There will be an inability among people to comprehend the light.
- Direct opposition to Jesus will also grow.
- The light is still shining into dark places, and the darkness is fleeing before it!
- Remember that while light and darkness are opposed to each other, they are not opposites. Beware of the idea of *dualism*. Dualism says that good and evil are equal and opposite as they engage in a battle or a struggle against each other.
- Think of... The Force...

The Bible never portrays light and darkness as fighting it out to see who wins. Instead, the light is shining in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. And it never will. Even now, millions are coming to faith in Christ, and God is giving them light!

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 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. (2 Cor. 4:3-6)

Evil will one day be destroyed by His light: *...the Lord will consume [him] with the breath of His mouth and destroy [him] with the brightness of His coming. (2Th. 2:8)*

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