

The True Light; John 1:9-13

- I. Enlightens
 - A. John 1:9; There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. (NASB)
 - B. True - in the sense of genuine or real, not just the opposite of falsehood; the etymology of the Greek word is to expose, unconceal, clearly manifest
 - C. Enlightens - To cause to know, conceived of as shining light onto something so as to make it visibly clear
 - D. God has clearly revealed Himself in His Son
 1. Truth
 2. John 1:14; And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 3. Trustworthy
 4. John 7:18; The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.
 5. Real - The "True Light" in verse 9
 - E. He enlightens us
 1. He is the creator
 2. John 1:3; All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 3. He brings salvation
 - a) 2 Timothy 1:8–10; 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,
 - b) "Before the ages began" God decided that He wanted mankind to be His sons
 - (1) Even though God knew that Adam would eat the fruit
 - (2) Even though He knew He would have to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah
 - (3) Even though He knew that Israel would have to be taken off into captivity
 - c) "Before the ages began" God decided that He wanted ME to be His child
 - (1) Even though He knew I would lie to others
 - (2) Even though He knew I would steal from others
 - (3) Even though He knew I would _____ (you can put your own sin there)
 4. This was all "brought to light through the Gospel"
 - F. With this enlightenment, we are forced to make a decision
- II. Forces a Decision
 - A. John 1:10–11; 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
 - B. This Gospel forced the chief priests and the whole council to make a decision
 1. Matthew 26:59; Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,

2. Matthew 27:1–2; 1 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. 2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.
- C. The Gospel forces us to make a decision too
1. The decision has to be ours, not our parents', husbands', wives', friends', etc.
 2. The decision has to be based on the Gospel, not someone else's ability to follow (or not follow) it
 3. It is a personal decision based on the facts regarding Jesus (the Light, the Word)
 4. Bible studies are nothing more than presenting the facts of Jesus to someone so that they can make an informed decision
- D. A quick rundown of the facts
1. Jesus was conceived from a union between the Holy Spirit and Mary (born of a virgin; Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-23)
 2. Jesus' claim to be the Son of God was validated by the many miracles He did (too many to list; John 20:30-31; 21:25)
 3. Jesus was crucified though He did nothing deserving of death (said by both Herod and Pilate; Luke 23:13-22)
 4. Jesus was resurrected as evidenced by the empty tomb (Matthew 28:1-10)
 5. Jesus' victory over death is our victory (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)
 6. Jesus' sacrifice satisfied God's wrath (Hebrews 10:12-18)
- E. With the right answer, we become heirs to the Kingdom
- III. Create Heirs
- A. John 1:12–13; 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- B. All of us who have made the enlightened decision to become children of God are now heirs to the Kingdom
- C. Not of Blood
1. Most people become heirs by birth
 2. Paris Hilton is not just some socialite, but she is the great grand-daughter of Conrad Hilton the founder of Hilton Hotels; an heir of his fortune
 3. The Israelites were heirs by birth
 4. Matthew 3:9; And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.
 5. Romans 9:6–8; 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.
 6. The heirs are not of blood, but of promise
- D. Not of the will of the flesh
1. Jesus' birth was not normal by any stretch
 2. Yes, Mary was pregnant
 3. Yes, the birth was a natural birth
 4. But the seed was not from man (flesh) but from the Holy Spirit
 5. Luke 1:35; And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.
 6. Joseph and Mary didn't meet together and decide to bring forth an heir to his estate

7. The heirs are not by the will of the flesh, the natural result of man and woman together; but from the supernatural result of the Holy Spirit and Mary

E. Not of man's will

1. Mankind did not design, create, or put into place this grand plan that was "before the ages began"
2. We have no control over this plan; no input into how it was (or is) revealed, established, or conducted
3. James 1:18; Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
4. Ephesians 1:3–14; 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

IV. The True Light

- A. Enlightens mankind
- B. Forces us to make a decision
- C. Adopts us as heirs to the Kingdom