
Sermon Notes

December 11, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Who is Jesus?
Jesus is Light
John 1:1-14

The Season of Lights

- ❖ Lights are everywhere
- ❖ Disperse the gloomy clouds of night!
- ❖ Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the One who comes to planet earth as the light of the world

Jesus is Light

- ❖ *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)
 - life and light go hand in hand
 - life and light are inseparably connected
- ❖ Light is used as a picture of the way understanding brings illumination to the human mind ("I saw the light!", "The lights went on", etc...)

- ❖ Though God is invisible, He is not hidden
 - it is God's nature to reveal Himself just as it is the property of light to shine
 - in a general sense, God makes Himself known through the beauty and majesty of His creation
 - in a more specific sense, God makes Himself known through Jesus, the light of the world
- ❖ Before Jesus came into the world, the world was in darkness

What Does Light Do?

- ❖ Light is a form of energy
 - almost every life form depends on light to survive
 - no light = no life
- ❖ Light provides direction and reveals whatever is hidden in darkness
 - physically
 - spiritually

God and Light

- ❖ The fact that God is Light, is not a shockingly new revelation to those who know the OT
 - Psalms 27:1, 36:9, 104:1-2

- God describes His Word as light (Psalm 119:105, 130)
- light is a symbol of holiness and purity
- light conveys a picture of intelligence, vision, and growth
- walking in the light vs. walking in the darkness (John 3:19-20)
 - doing evil = hating the light
 - living by the truth = coming to the light
- ❖ For those unfamiliar with OT truth, the idea of God as light was something surprisingly new
 - in the 1st century world, gods were not necessarily good
 - the Greek system of gods and goddesses
 - people needed to know how to please/placate the gods
 - to people caught in this system, John's declaration that Jesus is light and that He is a good God was shockingly new

Darkness vs. Light

- ❖ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* (John 1:5)
 - the darkness has not and never will be able to "put out" the light

- Jesus is still shining in the darkness

❖ *Overcome*

- to seize or apprehend
- to overtake something
- to quench, extinguish or eclipse

❖ *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.* (John 9:5)

- but, Jesus is not physically present in the world today, so where is His light right now?
- Matthew 5:14, We are the light of the world
 - we don't manufacture the light
 - we reflect the light

Personal Reflection

1. Do you love the light or hate the light? How does that show up in the way you live and act toward others?
2. What are some practical ways that the light of Jesus is actively at work in overcoming the darkness within you?
3. Do others see the light of Jesus in you? How do you know this is the case?