

Preface to John's Gospel

John 1:4-5

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Texts:

John 1:4-5

4. In him was life; and that life was the light of men.

5. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Commentary:

John 1:4, In him was life; and that life was the light of men.

I. Life, spiritual and physical, came from God. Life did not originate from lifeless matter!

II. God's revelation of himself to fallen, sinful mankind shows mankind, by divine light, the way out of darkness and despair.

III. Jesus is the Creator of Life.

A. 1 Corinthians 8:6, for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

B. Colossians 1:16, For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

C. Genesis 1:26, Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

IV. When we have a saving relationship with Christ we also have life.

A. Romans 8:10-11, But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit, who lives in you.

B. John 10:10, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

C. 1 John 3:14-15, We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

D. John 6:51, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

V. Jesus is the Light.

A. John stresses the fact that Jesus is the light of the world.

B. “Light” (phos) occurs 72 times in the New Testament, 33 of them in the writings of John. John associates Jesus with both light and life.

1. John 8:12, When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

2. John 9:5, While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

3. John 12:35-36, Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

C. Walking in the light leads to heaven while walking in darkness leads to hell.

1. 1 John 1:7, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

2. 1 John 1:8-10, Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you; because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother

abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

3. 1 John 2:9, Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

4. John 11:10, It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light.

5. 1 John 2:11, But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

John 1:5, And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

I. The light of Jesus Christ now shines in the spiritual darkness that plagues mankind.

II. The light came into the world and the world didn't even recognize the light for what it was!

III. The war of the ages is the conflict between light and darkness. On which side are you?

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Questions

1. In Jesus was _____; and the _____ was the _____ of men.
2. Life, both _____ and _____, came from _____.
3. Life did not originate from _____.
4. God's revelation of himself to _____, _____ mankind shows us the way out of _____ and _____.
5. Jesus is the _____ of _____.
6. By him all things were _____: things in _____ and on _____, _____ and _____, whether _____ or _____ or _____ or _____; all things were created by him and for him.
7. When we have a _____ with _____ we also have _____.
8. If the Spirit of him who raised _____ from the _____ is _____ in you, he who raised _____ from the dead will also give life to your _____.

9. Jesus came that we may have _____, and have it to the _____.

10. Anyone who _____ his brother is a _____, and you know that no _____ has _____ in him.

11. Jesus is the _____ which came down from _____.

12. If anyone eats of the _____, he will _____.

13. Jesus is the _____ of the _____.

14. John associates _____ with both _____ and _____.

15. Light occurs _____ times in the New Testament, _____ being in the writings of _____.

16. Jesus said, "I am the _____ of the _____. Whoever follows me will never walk in _____, but will have the _____ of _____."

17. Jesus commands, "Put your _____ in the _____ so you may become _____ of _____."

18. Walking in the _____ leads to _____ while walking in _____ leads to _____.

19. “If we walk in the _____, as he is in the _____, we have _____ with one another, and the blood of _____, his Son, _____ us from all _____.”

20. The war of the ages is the conflict between _____ and _____ . On which side are you? _____