



TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

John 1:3-5: Further Truths about Jesus Christ, The Word

"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend^[a] it."

Background Notes

The theme of the Gospel of John is "Christ as the Son of God." The Gospel of John clearly brings out this great truth: Jesus Christ is fully God. John's purpose was not just to present this truth as abstract fact, or to go about proving it in some kind of detached style. Oh no! John was passionately involved. He wanted the reader to **believe** it -- that was his purpose in writing the Gospel.

Turn over to John 20:30-31, where John explicitly stated his purpose in writing the book: *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* John told us, right there, why he wrote this Gospel -- not just to prove the point that Jesus is the Son of God, that He is fully God, but that we might **believe** it, and have the 'life' and the 'light' that we read about in chapter 1.

By the way, the Gospel of John is a great book to give to a non-Christian to read. Let's say you have a non-Christian friend, and you bring them to the point where they are willing to read the Bible. Now what book would you suggest? Leviticus?! Well, I would suggest the Gospel of John. Why? Because John's purpose for writing the book is that people might believe that Jesus is the Christ!

Of course I'm not saying a person can't come to the Lord through the book of Leviticus -- God can use **any** portion of His Word to begin the process of bringing that person to Himself. I have a good friend who became a Christian through the book of Ecclesiastes; that is the first book of Scripture he read. But if you have a chance to suggest a specific book of the Bible to a non-Christian, and they are willing to read it, John is a great book to use in evangelism. John's purpose was that people would come to believe that Jesus is God, and have 'life' and 'light' through Him.

How many of you can quote a gospel verse from the Gospel of John? You're all thinking John 3:16, right? It's a great gospel verse! Well, there are a lot of gospel verses in the Gospel of John. Take John 14:6 *"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* John 3:3, *"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* John 3:36, *"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

There are great gospel texts in the Gospel of John because John's purpose was to have people come to Christ. John's stated purpose for writing the book, John 20:31:, "*but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name;*" And that's the "life" that is talked about in John 1:3-5.

Doctrinal / Teaching Points

1. Christ created everything.

Look at verse 3. "*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*" Notice how the truth that Jesus Christ created everything is stated both in a positive way, "*All things were made through Him*" and in a negative way, "*without Him nothing was made that was made.*" It couldn't be said more clearly -- Jesus Christ created everything!

But you may say, "Wait a minute, I thought it was **God** who **created** everything?" Well, that's right. Jesus Christ is God! As God the Son, Jesus Christ was the Agent of Creation.

There are two other New Testament references that back up this great truth. Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds..*" Colossians 1:16 says, "*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*"

Jesus Christ created everything: stars, planets, moons, molecules (including the DNA molecule), atoms, subatomic particles, plants, fish, animals, people, and angels. Jesus Christ created **everything**. You name it, He created it!

Recently Margie and I went to see the "Life Over Time" exhibit at the Field Museum [in Chicago]. This exhibit purports to take you through time, from when there was no life on earth until there was human life. According to the exhibit, of course, this was not the creation week of Genesis, but millions and millions of years of "chance." There was not a single mention of God in the whole exhibit. It implied that everything came about through "time and chance." Talk about being brainwashed! It takes more faith to believe in that scenario than to believe in God -- it really does!

Now you may say, "How did God do it?" Let's turn to Psalm 33:6, "*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.*" And verse 9, "*For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*" No problem for God!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Word, created everything.

2. Christ is the only source of light and life.

Look at verse 4. "*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*" Jesus Christ is not only the Creator of physical life and physical light, He is the source of spiritual life and spiritual light. That is the main thought in verse 4. The Greek word that is used for *life* in verse 4 is not *bios*, which means physical life; the Greek word used in verse 4 is *zoe*, which is more than physical life. The Greek word *zoe* primarily refers to spiritual life.

Jesus Christ is the only source of spiritual life, and He is the only way that we can have spiritual *light*. The only way we can have **understanding** in life, or guidance in life is to have this spiritual life. Do you have more than physical life? Do you have spiritual life? Eternal life? Divine life? Do you have more than physical light? Do you have spiritual light? Do you have an understanding of what life is all about? Do you have an understanding of the ways of God? Do you have insight into the word of God? Do you have guidance and direction in your life? Do you have spiritual light, or are you still walking in spiritual darkness? Well, praise the Lord, you can have both spiritual life and spiritual light by receiving Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. Jesus Christ is the only source of life and light.

3. The light of Christ is more powerful than darkness.

Now look at verse 5: "*And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*" As the light of this world, Christ came into this spiritually dark world, but for the most part, the world did not realize who He was or why He had come. The world didn't comprehend or apprehend the light -- and it still doesn't! The average person in your neighborhood doesn't comprehend or apprehend the light. They think that Jesus Christ was just a good man -- that's all.

There's another translation for the last phrase of verse 5: "*and the darkness did not overcome it.*" The word that is translated as "comprehend," or "apprehend," can also be translated "overcome." That may be the main thought here, and that's what I have tried to capture in this doctrinal point. The light of Christ is more powerful than darkness. The darkness could not overcome the light of Christ!

The world's rejection of Christ didn't keep the Light from shining. The Light of Christianity started small, but it steadily grew. The Jews tried to put it out, but the Light continued to shine. The Roman Empire tried to snuff it out, but the Light continued to shine. The darkness could not overcome it!

The same is true today. This dark world cannot comprehend the light. They try to put it out -- but they cannot! The Bible is still the best selling book. All over the world Christians are meeting together and sharing their faith. The Light is shining! The Light is here to stay! The light of Christ is more powerful than darkness!

Practical Application

We don't have to be afraid of the dark.

This statement is true in the physical sense as well as the spiritual sense. We teach our children that they don't have to be afraid of physical darkness, because the Lord is there to protect us. And, as children grow older, we also want to teach them that they don't have to be afraid of spiritual darkness. Why? Answer: Because the light of Christ is more powerful!

If you are a Christian, you have the Light of Christ within you. You have a responsibility to let this Light shine in your neighborhood, in your workplace, and in your school. But you may say, "I'm so scared, I get so nervous, I get so uptight, I have such a hard time witnessing." We don't have to be afraid of the dark, because the darkness cannot overcome the Light of Christ. Light and darkness are opposites, but they are **not equal**. Think of how one small candle, can overcome darkness, but no amount of darkness can overcome the light of that small candle!

So whether it's in your neighborhood, or on campus, or in your workplace -- and it can be pretty dark there, right? -- you don't have to be afraid of the dark, because your light **cannot** be put out. It **cannot** be overcome, if you let it shine!

Margie and I saw an illustration of this truth at the Field Museum exhibit I mentioned previously. Throughout this Godless exhibit, bulletin boards had been set up on which people could write a message. We were thrilled to see that many Christians had let the Light shine, and had posted very good, solid comments on the bulletin boards in the midst of a Godless exhibit. We don't have to be afraid of the dark!

Matthew 5:16, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" We don't have to be afraid of the dark!