

John the Baptist – Forerunner and Witness to the Light

John 1:6-8

Introduction

It is not enough to *know* the truth, we must *be* the truth.

“Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being.” Psalm 51:6

This is an ontological issue.

v6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

“John”

v7 *He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*

The Centrality of Christ drives all Christian ministry efforts, forming all of our ministry objectives in any and every area of Christian ministry.

v8 *He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

“He was not the light”

John 3:28; John 5:35

“a ... shining lamp” (indefinite article “a”) Gk *luchnos*; ‘a portable lamp fed with oil.’

Jesus is “*the Light*” (definite article “the”) Gk *phos*; The Source of all spiritual illumination.

Jesus is the eternal Source of the Light, the glory of God radiating through the earthly flesh He wore.

John 1:14; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 1:16; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:9

The Light of Christ breaks in on our sin-darkened minds and illuminates the glory of the Lord:

2 Corinthians 4:6

“A sense of the *beauty* of Christ is the beginning of true saving faith in the life of a true convert.... A glimpse of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ causes in the heart a supreme genuine love for God. This is because the divine light shows the excellent loveliness of God’s nature.... The true love of God which

comes from this sight of His beauty causes a spiritual and holy joy in the soul; a joy in God, and exulting in Him.... The sight of the beauty of divine things will cause true desires after the things of God." J. Edwards

As the Spirit-illuminating work of the Word progresses, the image of Jesus becomes clearer causing our love for Jesus to grow.

2 Peter 1:19

"lamp" Gk *luchno*; a derived light.

"morning star" Gk *phosphoros*; compound word 'to bring light.'

The pride of man is the greatest barrier to radiating the image of Jesus Christ.

Remember the words of John the Baptist in John 3:28-31

Proverbs 4:18-19

Christians who stray into sin lose contact with the Light and their lamp dims as they walk in darkness.

A Call to Repentance

John the Baptist is the epitome of humility.

John 1:27

"He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30

Isaiah 40:3

"prepare the way" = God is coming to His own. Make your hearts ready.

Matthew 3:2, 8

Job 11:13-17

2 Samuel 23:1-4

Romans 10:13-15, 17

We who are saved are called to bear testimony (witness) to the living Christ who resides in us.

John 12:35-36