

## I. Introduction to the Gospel of John

As you know, last week we began the book of the Gospel of John. I began to give you an introduction into the book that laid out a lot of material. I have told you many, many times, and I know I said this last week, that when you want to study a book of the Bible, you need to gather as much resource material about that book before you ever really get into the book itself. I did that because I want to help us to understand and comprehend this great book.

You remember, I did a number of things:

1. I went over the layout between the Old Testament and the New Testament and showed you the two definitive books for the Bible: Genesis of the Old Testament and the book of Acts of the New Testament. Everything in the Bible is built around those two. Everything in the Old Testament is built around Genesis, and everything in the New Testament is built around the book of Acts.
2. We talked about the context of John, and I showed you the four accounts of each Gospel, how they portray Christ. Then I ran it back to the four branches in the Old Testament that actually match up to the four Gospels.
3. I talked about the theme of John, and I gave you the definitive verse in John 20:31 and showed you how the Gospel was written for men to get saved and how the key word is the word “believe.”
4. We saw the great aspect of the five wisdom books in the Old Testament and then John writing the five wisdom books in the New Testament, and what a great aspect that is, showing us really what we should be. We should have the wisdom of the Old Testament, but we also should have the wisdom of the New Testament. When the two come together and work together, it is a great thing for all of us in putting our Bible together.
5. We talked about defining the word “beginning” in Genesis 1:1 and also in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word.” That is such a misunderstood word today, but it is easily defined for us. To go back to Proverbs 8, which we did, we know now that it is not the beginning of God or the beginning of time or the beginning of anything in that sense, but it is the beginning of God's way—the way that He is going to go down through history from that point on. As I said, it changes. One little thing like that can change the entirety of how you look at everything in the Bible.
6. I gave you the outline of the Gospel of John and how it is built around four Passovers and bringing Christ to be the sacrificial Passover on the last one.
7. We talked about the author of the book. I never get tired talking about John, the author of the book. John is the greatest example and picture of what we should be. Our relationship to Christ, how through our relationship with Christ we hear the heartbeat of God. He is such an incredible picture of what our life should be. If you want a measuring stick of where you are at compared to where you should be, he is the guy.

How we should have a complete understanding through our relationship of all that God is doing and the wisdom from the five wisdom books in the Old Testament to the five in the New Testament. For you and for me, John represents what we should have. You know as well as I do that most of God's people never get here, but it is something that most of you here today are in pursuit of. At some point you will get it—you will get as much of it as you can humanly possible. That is the complete understanding of God's way. Being able to look at every circumstance in life, every situation in life. This is why the Bible says, "Perfect love casteth out fear." I do not care what comes in our world. I do not care what befalls us. You do not have to be afraid of it if you understand the concept of the perfection of God's love in your life and that giving you the understanding. You understand God's way.

John writes the last of the New Testament's books. I told you this, and Tony asked this question Thursday night in Bible study, and it was a great question. It really helped me develop even more of our understanding of the Gospel of John, which I certainly appreciate. That is how John is the last writer. When he writes his five books, he is up into 90 A.D. He is up 30, 40 years into the church age. He is up 60 years from when Christ shows up. He is 90 years from when Christ was born. He is absolutely a picture of what you and I should be: being able to look at everything in life and see it, and more importantly, understand it from God's viewpoint and the Word of God.

## II. John 1:1-5

Today we want to pick it up in verses 4 and 5. Just so you know, I did not give you this last week. John 1 in the first 14 verses is basically its own introduction. I know I gave you an intro last week, but in the book itself, verses 1 through 14 or so is all an intro into the book before we get into Christ's life and ministry. It basically takes some time to define who He is so you and I will believe on the Son of God.

What I am going to do to keep the consistency, I want to read what I preached to you last week and then come right on through the two verses we want to look at today. Here is what he says:

*John 1:1-3*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*The same was in the beginning with God.*

*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Now here come our verses today:

*John 1:4-5*

*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

Father, help us today to glean everything out of here we can. Forgive us where we failed Thee. Forgive us, Lord. Put us under the blood today. Allow nothing in our lives to stop what God has

for us today. I pray, Father, not only for the folks here, but I pray for the folks at our home legitimately today because they cannot be here. Lord, how they are on my heart today, and how I want to give them everything that they need to give them the best chance they can. So I pray, Father, that You will help us today get into the Word of God. May it be a blessing to those that are here, to those that are tuned in, and to those that are around the country or around the world. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

### III. The Eternal State of God and the Word

Last week we saw the eternal state of God as Christ and, of course, as the Word of God. I talked to you how you cannot separate them. They have to stay together because they are one. We know that in the Bible there are two Christs. We know that. There is the Lord's Christ and then there is the Antichrist. Both of them have two areas of work: God and the devil. This is where our real spiritual warfare lies in Ephesians 6. God will separate you from the world first through salvation. Then He will add things into your life from the Word of God as you grow. The devil will add things to your life first, and then in time, because of all the things that he gives you, he will completely separate you from God and His Word. That is fundamentally the way that it works.

It has always amazed me because I guess I expect more of God's people than probably I should. I always tell people, if you have been saved five years or less, I will give you a free pass. But if you have been saved five, six, seven, eight, nine years, it has always been amazing to me how God's people are so out of touch with everything that God is actually doing. I have seen people who were saved for five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten years. They fall for the stupid tricks that the devil puts in front of them. They let fear rule their life and rule their day. It is a thing where it has always been amazing to me. We have on our wall back there a little saying that you cannot fix stupid. Somebody, I do not know who it was, printed that off. We need to get that made into a nice little plaque because I like what it says. It is an add-on, and it says, "Duct tape cannot fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound." That is so true.

It is a thing where it has always amazed me how God's people who ought to be better than who they are. They ought to be better than what they are feeling this morning. They ought to be better than the fear that rules them through everything in life. It has always been an amazement to me that we claim to have the Word of God. We claim to be saved, and we probably all are. Why does it not work? Why does it only work when everything is going good? Why does it only work when you get your own way? Why does it only work when the sun shines out? As John Wayne once said in his great movie *Sands of Iwo Jima*, in everybody's life, a little rain might fall. It is going to rain in your life. It is going to rain in your parade. It is going to rain to the point where some days it is not going to be bright and shiny.

It is so true, but people who are not saved, and I say that tongue in cheek, but it is true of God's people too. They tell us that there are people out there whose depression is worse on cloudy days than it is on days of sunshine. I know that to be true because that is just the way human nature is. You will find people who get up that do not have God, they do not have the Bible, and they will pull back the drapes and the sun is shining, and they will feel great. Then you will find people,

that same person will get up and it is raining and gloomy outside, and it adds to their feeling of depression. Back to bed they go. I get that. But as a child of God, the sunshine should be out in our life every day of our life. The principles of the Word of God will get us through everything. I understand why the world is the way that it is. I have never understood, and I probably never will, why God's people are that way. Why we allow the circumstances of life to control what we do for God. It has just always been an enigma to me.

## IV. The Light of Men

Now let us pick it up in John 1:4-5. John 1:4 says, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." The Bible tells us, I am not telling you anything that you do not already know, the Bible tells us that this whole world is darkness. There is no light in it. Being in darkness, we are easily fooled and tripped up in life and then swallowed up by life, the world. The normal man will wind up in hell, or if he is a saved person, he will just lose everything they have at the judgment seat of Christ. So God's way from the beginning was to bring into a dark world a light. That light was the Son of God that later on gets manifested into the Word of God that you and I have a light in a dark place.

In our study of the book of Proverbs, we saw and I did three key words:

8. We saw the word "knowledge" and defined that.
9. We saw the word "wisdom" and defined that.
10. We saw the word "understanding" and we defined that.

Now we should have a thorough grasp of each one of those and how they will work in our lives. In the Bible, understanding will be the illumination of any subject. It will be the illumination of any situation. Yes, it will be the illumination of any person that you will run into in your life. It may take a little time. It may not be apparent the first time you see it. Sometimes it will be, or somebody you meet, sometimes it will be. But in time, the light of the Word of God, understanding, it will be the truth of anything in life through the Word of God, through the Holy Spirit of God. Truth will always put light on any subject. We can claim whatever we want to be. We can build our false wall of Christianity in our lives, but it is the Word of God that knocks down those walls. It shows us and exposes us for where we are really at. Of course, we get this understanding through the principles of the Word of God. This is why for the last 10 years I have put everything I can into you to teach you biblical principles.

This is why, just so you understand, this is why the number one thing, look at it in your own life. Look at it in the people that you have worked with or have dealt with. This is why the number one thing that people do when they get out of fellowship is they want to turn off the lights because the light irritates them now. It is true. You have started to work with people and disciple them, and about halfway through they wanted to turn the lights off. When you get saved and you begin the process of becoming God's man or woman, there are some things that we are all going to have to change. Many times we do not want to change that. We say we do at the beginning, but as time goes on, when that light starts to get in every crack and crevice of your world, we do not want the lights to go out. You will find at that point you will find every excuse to get out of

the light because it will expose you. This is why people do not like preaching. This is why people, you will find some people who love the Word of God, they will come for six months, a year, two years. But when the light begins to be personified down to something in their life, they finally find a problem with the light. It is just that simple. You will now find that they will come up with every excuse to get out of the light.

We are told the principle of truth in John 3:19. Here it is. Here is the fundamental problem:

*John 3:19*

*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

John 1:4 says this light was the light of men. It is the true light. There are two applications to this life in a man's life that I want you to see and understand when you leave here today. One will be an application of the light to an unsaved man. The other one will be an application of light to a saved man. We both get these in either case through the illumination of the Word of God by the Holy Spirit.

## V. The Holy Spirit's Work in the Unsaved

Now let us look at them. I do not know if you are aware of this or not. You should be. John 16, 16 chapters later. I feel safe laying this out for you today because it is in chapter 16. By the time we get to chapter 16, it will probably be 20, 30 years from now, and you will have forgotten all this, and I can teach it again. So I am feeling really good about that today.

In John 16:7-12, all the way through that chapter, you have God's definitive chapter on the work of the Holy Spirit of God in a man's life that is unsaved. Verses 7 through 12 is a picture of what the Holy Spirit of God does. His work in an unsaved man, unsaved woman's life that has not the light of God in her life. Now I want to read it for you:

*John 16:7-12*

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

*Of sin, because they believe not on me;*

*Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;*

*Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

*I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*

This section is clearly for an unsaved man, and it shows us when the Bible says that He is the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. This verse passage here shows us how the Holy Spirit of God will work in an unsaved man or woman's life.

Three things that when a person is unsaved, the Holy Spirit of God reproves them of:

11. Sin
12. Righteousness
13. Judgment

Let us look at each one of them.

14. He says that He reproves the world of sin. That will be God's light showing me the world in darkness and that I am a sinner and I need a Savior. When He reproves the world of sin, He is showing me that I am a sinner lost without hope, without Christ, damned and doomed to an eternal lake of fire, already in the lake of fire in God's mind. As Romans 7 says, that great chapter where Paul talks about his own self, he says in verse 13 that when a man gets saved, he can only get saved because his sin becomes exceedingly sinful. He sees himself as a sinner, and that is to reprove the world of sin, showing me that I am lost without hope and without Christ and I need a Savior.
15. Reprove the world of righteousness. That is the light an unsaved man gets to put him up against a perfect man because the only one that is God's righteousness is the Lord Jesus Christ. When a man realizes he is a sinner, the next thing he sees is a perfect man that he can never stand up to. He sees that man as God's righteousness, and he realizes that is the only man that can take away his sin and make him righteous.

*Romans 5:1*

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Peace with God in the book of Romans is always salvation. You have two phrases: peace of God, peace with God. You will find when a phrase is found peace with God, it is salvation. When you find a phrase peace of God, it is after you are saved. You cannot have the peace of God until you first make peace with God. Jesus Christ, God's righteousness. It is a picture of Ephesians 4:13 talks about that He is a perfect man. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:15 that He was tempted on all points like us yet without sin. So when He talks about reprove the world of righteousness, He gets me first to know that I am a sinner, then He puts me up against a man that is perfect and shows me that I will never measure up. Reprove the world of judgment. That will be the great white throne judgment. That is hell in the lake of fire, God's final judgment for sin. Once He shows me I am a sinner, once He shows me that I am up against a man that I can never get around, then He shows me where I am headed. Someday if I do not make a choice and get out of the life that I am in, out of the darkness into the light, I am going to wind up eternally in the lake of fire. Hebrews 9:27-28

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Acts 17:31

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. That is the man. So when the Holy Spirit of God comes into an unsaved man's world, He reproves him of sin, He reproves him of righteousness, and He reproves him of

judgment of God. God will give an unsaved man or an unsaved woman just enough light to see his true condition. He is just going to give him enough light to allow him to see that he needs a Savior in these three areas. He is going to give him enough light to see that he is lost without hope. He is lost without Christ, and he is in a dark world. He is up against a perfect man that he will never be able to overcome, but he has to become one with. If he does not, then he is going to wind up in a lake of fire. The Holy Spirit's Work in the Saved The second thing here, this will be for a saved man. Then we have the light as it affects a man who gets saved. This will be the Holy Spirit of God. The first part shows you how the Holy Spirit of God deals with an unsaved man. The second part shows you how it deals with a saved man. Psalms 119:130

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. Simply, he is saying this in a very basic, bottom-line way. When you get saved, the lights get turned on, or they should. The more after you are saved you get into the book, the brighter that light will shine. We saw this in Matthew 5:14-15 where it talks about, as we sing a little song to our kids, "This little light of mine, I am going to let it shine." It says, "Do not hide that light under a bushel." There is a lot of that going on today. You put that light on a candlestick. The Holy Spirit of God in the tabernacle with seven-pronged candlesticks. In Revelation 1, there is a candlestick for every church that represents the Holy Spirit of God. You do not hide the light that God gave you because you are scared to death under a bushel. You put it on a candlestick where everybody can see it. Every time that the world needs to see the light, it is the time that we live in. I think of this little podunk church meeting in the basement of a warehouse. A lot of people, I have seen them come down here and look around this place like, "How could this be a church?" Because in your mind, you think a church is Notre Dame, which God burned down last year, just for you. You think of some of those big churches out there that you see sprawled out miles before you get there. Of course, that is your concept. But I am going to tell you something, the context of what makes a church is not the building. It is you sitting here this morning. You are the church. If the church fails, it will not fail because the building falls down. It will fail because you failed to get involved and get in part of it and let your light shine. Matthew 5:14

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. So many people in this church here today have got the lights turned on. People all around this world see the light. This little podunk church that is in a basement that used to be a car museum, used to be a strip little mall where you had a little booth where you went in and bought your little trinkets. Probably bought you some marijuana underneath the table. This little podunk building down here that when we got it, it was warehoused out, and most of it were not here then, but some of you remember how it was stacked to the ceiling. The ceiling goes higher than this with all kinds of stuff. We had to haul all that stuff out of here. But what makes this place special is not the walls or my chart over here or what we have. What makes this place real and special is the people that are here today. Your lights being turned on is what God takes this little podunk church that lets people in Germany, people in the Netherlands, people in Africa, people in England, people in Maryland, people in Washington, people all around this country and world. Why? Because of you. Certainly not because of me. It is because of all of us together letting our light shine. I am going to tell you, you know what is wrong with God's people today? There has been a power failure in their life. Today we have one of the greatest opportunities to reach people. I learned many, many, many years ago that when a disaster befalls a country, when something comes in

that scares people, when something comes into a culture that rattles that culture, people at that point in time, unsaved people, are scared to death. It gives us an opportunity because they are looking for something. Because they are unstable, they are looking for stability. May I just preach the obvious? We are supposed to be stable. We are supposed to be the ones that they look to. When the world is upside down, you stand right side up. But the problem today is that God's people for the most part are just as scared as the unsaved people. It is a tragedy today. Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. You want a good devotion you can use at softball or volleyball, even though we will probably never play them again. But you want a really good study for yourself, I will tell you. When you look at the Word of God as light, that there is an entrance of thy word giveth light or thy word is a lamp unto my feet, you look at the Word of God as a lamp that gives light, you will find that the Word of God is like and for you and for me in five lights. You want to get through this coronavirus stuff? You want to face it and respect it, but at the same time realize that, I guarantee you if the coronavirus would have hit in 33 A.D. on the day He was crucified, He probably still went to the cross. We do not have the option. We are facing a time when the world needs the light that we have. Five Lights of God's Word Five lights. I love the expression, "What is wrong with so and so? The lights are on but nobody's home." That is so many of God's people. You are saved, the lights are on, you just are not home. I am not sure where you are at. Do you even know where you are at? The first light that the Word of God is like unto is a lamp, is a reading lamp. Luke 24:45 was one of my favorite verses in the Bible, and it simply says this: Luke 24:45

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, I want to tell you something, if God does not give you the light to understand the Bible, your education is not going to help you one bit. Your simulating, shining personality is not going to help you at all. Your IQ of 180 or 190 is not going to do one thing for you because when it comes to the Word of God, if the Holy Spirit of God is not your reading lamp that opens up the Scriptures for you, you are in trouble. As you read, the Holy Spirit of God will guide you and illuminate what you read. Most of you can identify with this when you go to bed at night. Hopefully you maybe read your Bible. I had a person tell me one time, "Well, I used to do that, but then I felt so guilty because I start reading my Bible and then I just fall asleep." That is the greatest thing you can ever do. According to Job 33:15-16, that is what you ought to be doing. You ought to sit there in bed and lay there in bed and you open up that thing and you start to read some passage and before you get halfway through it you are gone. Well, that is the way to go to sleep. People say, "Well, I cannot sleep, I tried to count sheep." That is the wrong thing. You do not want every cow sheep to go to sleep, you just want to talk to the Shepherd. He will get you to sleep. As you do that reading, you have a little bed light on your little nightstand. Or sometimes they make them now where you can fix them to the head bed of your bed and it shines down in your, you have some little light that you are reading because otherwise if you are married your spouse will say, "Turn that light off." You cannot leave the big lights on. So he gets you a little light that shines down on the thing and you just see what you are reading. That is exactly what the Holy Spirit of God wants to do when you read the Word. He wants to illuminate for nobody else but just for you what you are reading. He wants to lift out those verses. He wants to lift out those words. He wants to lift out everything that He is given you that you can see. It is spiritually the Holy Spirit of God shedding

light on what you are reading because the Word of God is a reading lamp. My two prayers in the Bible are very simple. One of them is in Luke 24:45, the other one is Revelation 22:20. As I was a young man growing up, Luke 24:45 was the prayer of my, every time before I got into my Bible. I also realized that Psalms 119 was the key to learning the Bible, so I put me a prayer together out of Psalms 119. I never got into the Bible to read it or study it before I prayed those two prayers. It worked for me. Most people just jump into the Bible, open it up and give God the privilege of 30 seconds. You get your daily bread or your little verse that somebody sends you or you got and that is all the farther you take it. Of course, that is not what you do. But you get out of the Bible only what you are willing to put into it. That will determine whether today you are under the rock or you are in the rock. My second prayer, Revelation 22:20, was, "Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus." Two things: teach me the Bible and get me out of here. The rest will take care of itself. The second lamp is a heat lamp. Bible warms my heart in a cold and desolate world of cold and darkness, the warmth of God's love. Most of us sitting here today have a vitamin deficiency. We do not get all the vitamins that we need. Probably most of you, maybe not you younger kids because you are too, I have not figured it out yet, but us older people, we are on vitamins. I am on vitamins for people over 60. They are multivitamins. They have all the different things that you need. But even that does not do it for you. I take vitamin C every day. You say, "Does that help you?" No, I like that because when I was in high school, that is the only higher grade I could ever get. So I just think it kind of gives me a nostalgia mindset a little bit here. When you are in the Navy and you are on a submarine under the water for two or three months at a time, you get a deficiency. So they have, everybody gets a day, a daily allotment or maybe a couple of times a week of a big ultraviolet sunlight, sun lamp. They put you under that and you stay there for 20 minutes, a half an hour, whatever. That lamp puts back in what you are not getting from the sun. That is what they do. I saw this last week that vitamin D, as in David, as in dog, vitamin D is one of the best of prohibitive of the coronavirus because it affects your immune system. We are all short on vitamin D. I was listening to that. The guy said, "You know, you could get supplements of vitamin D and all that." But you know what he said? I am sitting there watching this. This is an unsaved man. He said, "The best source of vitamin D is the sun." I said to myself, "Amen." Because the best source of you fighting off anything in this world, whether it be the coronavirus or whether it be the world system or whether it would be all the problems that are going to come your way, will be sunlight, the sun. Psalms 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The Holy Spirit of God is defined for you as heat. The third light will be a safety lamp. The world is a dark place set with pitfalls, snares, deadfalls, traps, all set by the devil to stop you and me and to destroy us and your ministry or your marriage or your family. It is a minefield. In the Vietnam War, the Vietcong were famous for setting up pitfalls.

You are out on patrol, you never walked on the trails. It may have been 10 times harder cutting your way through the jungle, but it was a lot safer because they had the trails booby trapped with everything that you can imagine. From the punji stakes that were buried in the ground coated with human excrement to ensure you get an infection, that when you stepped on it, it went down in there and six or seven sharp bamboo poles went up through your feet, right through your boots, impaled your feet. From them having a thing pulled back that when you hit a trip wire, it swung out and cut you in the chest and killed you that way. To the thing where you would walk along and there would be a wall of bamboo spikes covered by a mat and there would be a trip wire, you would step in it, it would get both your feet and pull you up, it would open up and swing you right into it and kill you that way. I have often saw that and thought about those days and thought to myself, "You know what, that is exactly what the devil does." The Viet Cong were good at hiding it. You could not tell it. I am telling you, the devil is good at hiding it. It is a minefield out there. They did not have, well they did. Back in the Vietnam War, they had what they, they invented what they called a starlight scope. A starlight scope back then was a first generation tube about that long that you looked into the night and it was very distorted and it was not very good at all but you could actually, it was starlight because it picked up the light from the stars and you could actually see in the night and see who is out there and whatever. It did not work very good but it worked good enough. Today they have fourth and fifth generation. If you see our guys out there in the military, they all got them up on their helmets. They are turned up. That means at night they can put them down. The phrase is, when you fight whatever country, it was certainly screwing special ops. The phrase is, "We own the night" because they did not have it. You could see them long before they seen you. I say all that to say this, you have as a Christian, you own the night. You have the illumination of the Word of God that is a safety lamp. God's light through the Word of God shows us all the devices the devil will use. 2 Corinthians 2:11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. 1 Thessalonians 5:5

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. You know why? Because we own the night or we should. Then it is a traveler's lamp. It shows me God's way in my life. Genesis 24:27

And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren. The traveler's lamp shows me God's plan for my life. Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: It shows me the difference between God's plan for my life and God's will for my life, where He will take me and how will He get me there. Of course with understanding we know three things: the Holy Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the local church. The Holy Spirit of God is your guide. The Word of God is your road map. The local New Testament church is the vehicle that God is going to get you for. But when you quit coming to church, when you take that light out of your life, you just sold your car. Now you are not going anywhere. I look at my journey from Canton, Ohio in 1976 to Kansas City, Raytown, Missouri to be exact, the Garden of Eden of the world. I look at that journey for me and all the way along God illuminated through the traveler's lamp and gave me everything I need to get where I am at.

I have had some tough times in my life, as I am sure you have, everybody has, because in everybody's life a little rain must fall. We have all had our tough times that we have had to go through things, and I cannot speak for you but I can speak for me. I do not care how bad it was, I do not care where it was, when it was, or what I was up against, the traveler's lamp always got me through. It will get you through whatever you are facing. Then it is like unto a night lamp. My walk through the night of the church age, which is like unto a night time in the Bible, and hence I have given you the phrase that I got from my father in the Lord, Mal Subbaka, when he used to say all the time, "Never doubt in the darkness what God has given you in the light." When John wrote the book of Revelation, the great capstone of the Bible, he was taken up and told to write, taken up to the Lord's day, Revelation 1:10, and told to write in three tenses. He is told to write what has been, he is told to write what is, and he is told to write what shall be. He writes about past history, he writes by present day what is going on, and then he talked about future events. My life, my lamp, my night lamp of completely understanding the night time, the church age that I am living in. All the uncharted waters that we are facing right now today, all the uncertainty, all the fears that we should not have, all the things that keep us under the rock instead of being part of the rock, all because we fail as John did not fail to see and understand everything that is going on around us and where we fit in. The Holy Spirit's Guidance for the Saved Going back to John 16, I showed you how it affects the unsaved man, then I gave you when the entrance of the word which is light comes into your life the four lamp, five lamps that will get you through. Now I am going to take you back to John 16:13-15, and we are going to see the light and what it does for us as individuals once we get saved. Now watch this: John 16:13-15

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. There are four things here, when the child of God with the light of God in his or her life, now we see four things that the light of God will do for you. We saw how it brought you to Christ. Now let me show you what it will do for you after you get saved. This is where we are all at in our life today. First of all, John 16:13 says that He leads and guides you to all truth. Years ago, long before most of you were born, there was a soap opera called The Guiding Light, and it was a thing where many, many people got into soap operas back then, but the truth is, the Bible is the only book of truth that is the guiding light for you and for me. There is nothing in this world that will guide you, and you will see that in a moment. This is why I tell you all the time, when it comes to your life and my life, no matter what it may be, you do not run things around the Bible, you run them through the Bible. You allow the principles to define for you what you have. I want you to notice this. It says that the Holy Spirit of God will lead you to all truth, not just some truth. Years ago, I debated a counselor, therapist, doctor, psychiatrist, whatever, and he claimed to be a Christian. He probably was. We had a debate one time, and he said, "You know, there is not a lot of difference between us." He says, "You believe the Bible is the Word of God? I do too. You are saved, so am I. We both go to church. So there is only a small thing that is a difference between us." I said, "Well, doctor, what is that small thing?" He says, "You believe that the Bible contains all truth. I believe that my profession and the world of psychiatry, that

there are other truths outside the Bible." In other words, the Bible contains truth, but not all truth. Now to him, that was a little thing. To me, if I was in the Old Testament, I would have taken him out, dug a hole, put him in it, and we would all have thrown rocks down on his head. Sometimes it is nice to be back in the Old Testament. That is a big thing. Because I am telling you right now, if that book is not all truth, then we are in trouble. If you cannot go to that book and everything and you are facing in life, no matter what it may be, it may be the coronavirus today or cancer tomorrow. It may be a heart attack. It may be losing your kids. It may be losing a mother or a father. It may be some catastrophe that comes into your life. If the Bible is the book of all truth that gets you through it, you need to go be a Mormon. He said all truth. If you want to find out what is really real in somebody's life, this is so simple, Basic 101. I learned it 40 years ago. Just look at two things: First of all, look at the investment that they have made into the Word of God and what God has saved them for. Because if you have no investment, you will never come back to church. I will say this to you. The longer you stay away, the harder it is going to be for you to come back because you have got nothing invested. You are like the parsley on the side of the steak. You are not really part of the dinner. You are just there for show. I am telling you right now, you can mark it down, like it, lump it, not like it, love it, or it does not matter to me. The longer you stay away, the harder it is going to be to get back. Many of God's people across this country are never going to get back. You know why? You have got no investment. There is nobody here today depending on you to be here. There is no ministry that is, that if you left, it would take two or three people to replace you. So when you have no real investment in anything, what is the point? The second thing is, when the tough times come, how do you deal with it? That is truly the mark of a true person with the lights on. We have a job to do. I am sorry. I am sorry that the world is an inconvenience to your little lifestyle. I am sorry the world is an inconvenience and threatens some things in your little world. I am really sorry about that. But you know what? We do not have a choice. It is the light that will get you through those things. It is the truth. It is the understanding. Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. I will show you the next thing, John 16:14. The Holy Spirit of God through you will glorify Christ. John 12:32

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. Everything we do, the honor and glory goes to Christ. I am sure she will not mind me saying this, and I do not really care if she does. I went up to Meredith this morning, Meredith Pool. What is her... Stuart? Sterling. Meredith Sterling, alias Meredith Pool. She is a realtor. She has done so much for people in this church that help them with houses. I mean, she does. I mean, this girl is incredible. I mean, one people wanted to buy a house, did not have the money, could not sell their house. She went over in a night and burned it down and they got the insurance money and bought the house. Now that is Meredith. I am kidding. I was thanking her for doing that today, and she said to me, she says, "It ain't nothing to do with me, it is the Lord." I get that and I understand that. But you know what? It is always the Lord. You know what the Lord is looking for? He is looking for somebody like you to work through. But I get it. If I be lifted up, I will draw them in unto me. Exalt Christ, lift Him up. Preach Him. Give the honor and glory back to Him. Our abilities, our education, our charm, our money, our statue, our position will have absolutely nothing to do with

it. There is only one way to succeed that is lower yourself and lift Him up. That is what the Holy Spirit of God does. He never takes credit for anything. He always gives it to God. When the Holy Spirit of God is inside you, lighting you, then that is what you do. The third thing that it does is shows you the future. What is coming our way. Isaiah 42:9

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Now why did not all of God's people get that verse and light away where we are at today? Why did not all of God's people, when everything starts to fall apart, that is not the first place you go? You know why? Because you had no idea the verse was even there. What is even worse, you do not care. I preached a message a while back a couple of weeks ago about 2020, the year 2020. I have told you that day, I have been telling you for years and so has every other preacher that this day that we are facing is coming. God's people are unprepared. If I might just for a moment consider the mess we are in in this country. Raging forest fires on the West Coast, destroying millions, millions, millions of acres, killing, I do not know how many people, burning down whole towns. The whole West Coast is on fire. You come to the East Coast, we got 30 inches of rain. We just had the second tornado come off the Atlantic up there and devastate everybody again that just happened a couple of months ago. You know what? They are passing three more out in the Atlantic that are coming that way. We still got three months of hurricane season. You got raging fires, the West Coast is on fire, the East Coast is underwater. You got a pandemic ranging everywhere in between. Along with that you got riots, you got looting, you got burning down of buildings, you got people being shot. Every city is unbelievable. New York is 100% in a homicide rate. Chicago is off the charts. Kansas City is off the charts. In California last week, some idiot legislator put forth a legislation to lessen the penalty of pedophiles. You wonder what is wrong with this country. You cannot see the judgment of God, God's hand in this country. While even a city commissioner in Johnson County, I never would have guessed it, I would expect that from Raytown would he still drive around with rifles in the back of their pickup trucks. That Johnson County. He took a lot of flock for it, but he came out, a commissioner over there came out and said that if you are in Johnson County, you need to buy a gun and ammunition because there is a war coming. You cannot see it. God's people are oblivious to it. You know why? You do not want to see it. You like that rock you are under. You have carved out a little space under there that is quite comfortable by now. You do not want to get your world turned upside down. You do not want to be inconvenient. You do not want your job to be threatened. You do not want your social friends and social status. You do not want anything in your world that is going to upset your little private little millennium you have got going on. Well, I am telling you something, friend. It is here and it is coming like a hungry giant coming home for lunch and it is going to disrupt everything in this country. This country is on fire on one end, underwater on the other and total anarchy everywhere in between. We should be the light on the hill that in the midst of all that carnage, somebody looking for the truth can find it. Lastly, John 16:15. John 16:15

All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. You know what He is saying there? The last thing He is saying that God not only going to do all these other things to the Holy Spirit of God, but He is going to show you what is really of God and what is really not of God. He will show you through His word, the light, what is of God and what is not of God. Every decision you will have to make, every

circumstance you face, every person that you want to allow in your life, you now have the light of the Word of God to say yes that is a good choice or no that is not a good choice. It will show you and me what is heresy versus what is truth because they are around, brother. It will show you a real Christian versus a phony one. It will show you what is a weak Christian versus what is a strong one. Now with all that light, this is just a question, you do not have to answer it to me, with all that light, with all that available, if all that is true, why are God's people across Christianity so confused? Why are they so fearful? Why are they so anxious? Why are they so afraid? Why are they such a panic? Why do we allow the times that we live in to control our Christianity? I mean I know we got to six feet apart, you got to wear a mask, what has that got to do with the light in you? The answer to that, and let me draw you a picture here and connect the dots, the answer to that is simple. There is a power failure in God's people's life today and the lights have gone out. If Jesus was the light of men and the life of men, God's people today in a spiritual sense are on life support because it is not working for us. It is not working for us. We want to blame our lack of courage and strength and stability to get the job done in a world that has changed, that demands that we still get the job done. We want to find every excuse not to. The reason is that you have crossed a white wire with a black wire in basic being an electrician. In your house, every light that goes on comes down to separating the white line from the black line. In your Christian life, you are doing a job, simply depends on you being separated with the white, the light from the black. You know what happens in your house if you try to be a junior electrician? If you take the white wire, the power still on, and the black wire, the power still on, and you touch those two wires together, it blows every light out in your house. You cannot in your house connect a negative with a positive and keep the lights on. You cannot in your Christian life take the negative and the positive and try to put them together and keep your lights on. Light Versus Darkness Now look at John 1:5. John 1:5

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. Here is contrast. One of the greatest ways that God teaches us the Bible. Genesis 1:4

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. You do not go three verses in your Bible as you find out what the fundamental problem is going to be in 2020. Light versus darkness. Everything you will ever face in the world, events, or in Christianity will go right back to here. The Bible tells that the devil is a false light. He is an imitator of Christ, a counterfeit, an antichrist. 2 Corinthians 11:14

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Then it says in verse 15, his ministers also. I used to think that was the fallen angels, so I started meeting some of the ministers out there. Now we know that Satan is also a light. Oh, I can hear from the peanut gallery. "How can that be? He is darkness." How can Satan be dark and yet be a light? That is a good question. Again, do not let me ruin your day. Let us go back to the Bible. Matthew 6:22-23

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! Wow. There is a light that is darkness. Wow, what a light that is darkness. It masks the true identity of things. It masks how they appear. If I was to give you a worldly understanding of it as an example, it would be what we use at Halloween, a black light. When you turn a black light on compared to a white light, the black light masks

things and you do not get to see it as it really is. Things do not appear the same way in a black light. The black light cuts down contrast. It cuts down detail. It is the world's light for your parties, for all the things that you do when you want things not exposed to the true light but exposed to the world's black light. Jude 1:13

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. There you go. That is a reference to the deep up there in the second heaven, and the stars will be the fallen angels. Revelation 9:1, Genesis 6. Romans 1:19-20

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: If you want an understanding of all this, do a little work in cosmology. That is a study of the universe. You will see the pictures that God created. They are called black hole stars. Black hole stars are stars up there that have no light, yet they are called stars. The gravity sucks in so powerfully the light that the light turns into darkness, but as it turned into darkness, it brings up the most unbelievable enduring heat that you could ever imagine inside a black hole star. Picture of hell. People have always asked me, "Well, how in the world can you be in darkness in hell if there is fire?" Because it is the fire of the black hole stars. It is heat without fire. Or should I say heat without light? You have loved the darkness all your life. So when you go, can you imagine being in a lake of fire? See, we can think of a lake of fire and bright all around us, and the consolation would be, "Hey, there is my buddy over there. We used to drink together." You could see this person or that person. I am not saying that would be a great consolation when you are burning at 10,000 degrees. But could you imagine all of eternity being in a place where you are tortured with a fire and a burning? There are even unimaginable things that I do not want to get into this morning. You are tearing your body apart and yet you are in the utter darkness. Cannot see anything around you. Nobody else. Who else is down there? It is your own private little dark hell because you wanted to live your private life in darkness while you were here. Well, God gives it to you there. The most terrifying concept you could ever imagine. Now there is a false light and there is a true light. The Bible tells us that with this false light that he will blind people to the true light. Even God's people. 2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. Notice it is the blinding of the mind, not the eyes. It is the blinding of the minds. You and I are told to let this mind be in it. It was also in Christ Jesus. When you do not, then your mind gets blinded. That is why you are under the rock today instead of in the rock. He blinded the mind. When you blind the mind, your heart will follow. If you want a really good example of this, I know they always say, "Do not try this at home." I am going to give you something you can try at home. If you want a really good example of this, you can try this at home. When you go home this afternoon, go into your bedroom where your closet is, get a dark black dress, shirt, whatever, and then get a really dark blue one. Or get a red shirt or an orange shirt. If you have an orange shirt, I am really worried about you. But go ahead and get one if you have one. Step into your bedroom with your lights on. Try to tell if that blue dress is black or if it is really black or the black dress

is really black. The artificial light will not distinguish between something really dark blue and something that is black. You will look at them, you know what you got to do? I have to do it all the time. I get this shirt on and I am thinking it is a black shirt, but then it is a dark blue shirt because in the artificial light of the house, it does not show. But the moment you take those two into the sunlight, the sunlight, Malachi 4:2, Son of righteousness, the sunlight will always show you the true color of what is black and what is dark blue. Sometimes it is life, it is just that tough. Sometimes in your life, in the artificial life of this world, you will see situations, you will see people, you will see circumstances, and they are so close. It is so close that you think it is black when it is dark blue or dark blue when it is black. I am telling you right now, in life, you will never know the true colors. I mean, come on, do not we use that phrase all the time? "Well, he showed his true colors." Yes, he did. We use that all the time. True color only becomes apparent in sunlight. In life, the true colors of circumstances, situations, and people only show their true colors in sunlight. Malachi 4:2, the Son of righteousness. There you will see the true color. Remember the Holy Spirit of God, what it does for us, the four things that it does will always show you what is of God and what is not, and it will always do it by showing you through the sunlight what is the true color. Conclusion and Call to Action The book of John is one of the most incredible books that you will ever study. I am enjoying it. I was waiting to do it. I have always wanted to do it. I have never done it on this level. But now that I am in it, I just cannot wait for next week already. I already got next week's already laid out. I am just looking at these. The stories in it are incredible. Today and in the future, and with all that we are going through, we have an example of a New Testament Christian who saw it all as it really was. He did not let fear drive him. He did not let a lack of faith drive him. He had on front of him all the five wisdom books of the Old Testament that allowed him to write the five wisdom books of the New Testament. He saw it all. When he wrote the capstone of the Bible, he wrote for you and for me and sealed it forever that we should never be afraid of any circumstance that we have to face. We have to find a way through it. We may have to put up with some things that we do not like. We may have to change some things. But at the end of the day, we have got to get through it. You will not get through it under the rock. You only get through it being part of the rock. He goes through the most terrible time in man's history of crucifixion. It showed him what was really real and what was really phony. Roman Empire from Christianity. It showed him who was really real because he went all the way and everybody else headed for the woods. Based on his relationship with that light, that was the true light. 1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. His understanding, his time, he goes all the way. You find him at the cross in the most pitiful, terrible, tragic time in human history. You find him where we had to find ourselves at the foot of the cross. The crucifixion has always been an interest to me. Probably in a way that you have never thought of. I mean, I understand the impact of it, the day Christ paid for my sins, going back to the Old Testament, I get all that. But in another way that most people probably never think of, but as weird as I am, I see things like this and it bothers me. I see in Matthew 27:32 when He is on the way to be crucified, at the beginning of His crucifixion, when He is on the way to Calvary. They throw in a man that helps Him bear that cross up to the crucifixion. That man is a picture of you and me, Simon of Cyrene. It is a picture of you and me in this life right now, bearing that cross down the road with Him.

Then at the end, when He is hanging on the cross, I find another man that again is a picture of me and you. He is John, who in the midst of all of this terrible controversy, fear, agony, and uncertainty, and imminent death, he is standing at the foot of the cross. I am sure that Simon of Cyrene helping bear the cross to Calvary got kicked and beat up and spit on just like Christ did because the world never sees the difference. But at the foot of the cross, you have John standing there going all the way to the end with Him. To me, it has always kept me in check with a single question: "Where am I at in all of that in my own walk with God?" Am I bearing the cross as Simon did, going with Him and taking all the abuse and the ridicule? But am I also willing to stand at the feet of the cross while the most traumatic time in the history of man was unfolding before him? My job, and I always ask myself, "Did I lay that cross down someplace in the process?" Some of God's people will lay it down when the road gets rough like Simon had to carry it, and it will get too tough for him, and they will just lay it down and say, "I cannot do this anymore." But there will be some of God's people that will go the distance, but when it comes to the most tumultuous time in the history of the world, when everything got turned upside down, they lay the cross down and said, "I cannot be here." I ask myself that question. My job, the job of this church, this is why I am putting in Operation Remnant, because I know that there are people who legitimately want to be here today but cannot be here. You are the exception to the rule simply because of the fact that you have what it takes, but because of where you are at, you cannot be here, and I totally get that. But I also want you to know I will never forget you and just take the ones that are here. I will create a way for you, which I am about to do. I will create a way for your children, which I am about to do. I will create a way for everybody in this church that wants to get to the end and stand before that cross. But at the same time, if you do not want it, it is okay with me. I have passed the point of my ministry where I am going to chase anybody who simply does not want to get caught. I now, in the days that we are in, do not have time for that. You know where I am at. You know who I am. You know where we are at. I am only interested in now in the remnant, making sure that you and I stand all the way to the end, that if Jesus comes tomorrow, we are at the foot of the cross. If Jesus comes next week, we are standing on the rock, not hiding under it, and that we understand the seriousness of our time. I am not taking away from that, but I am telling you, we cannot quit. There has to be some risk in what we do for Christ. I know this is so foreign to God's people today because you have lived your life without any risk. Your biggest tumultuous time when you came home from the office and you were withered and beat and sweating and just down in the dumps and your wife says, "What happened to you today?" And you say, "Oh, it was a terrible day." "Well, what, darling?" "Oh, the air conditioner went out." That is where you are at. I cannot speak for anybody nor will I, but I am telling you right now, do what you want to do with it. I am not quitting. I am going to be found by the grace of God at the foot when He comes back. That is simply where I am at with it. I will not make that choice for you. I will not think anything negative of you. I understand that in combat, there are some people who just cannot cut it. I get it. I know that through this tough time will rise up. Oh, where do you see this remnant thing? Rise up from all of this will be a whole new crop of men and women who step into the leadership role. That is a great thing. I am not discouraged at all. I understand the times that we live and I have refocused every fiber of myself and my being in my mindset and my ministry to take care of those who are part of the remnant, who are part of the core. That is where I am at. That is what we are going to do. I do not know

how long this thing, honestly, if somebody would ask me and I do not have all the definitive answers, I do not think we are ever going to get back to normal. I do not think it is ever going to back the way it was. The reason why so many of God's people cannot accept where they are at and serve God is because they were not serving God back when it was okay. Let us ask ourselves, how in the world are you going to serve God in all of this when you could not serve Him when it was all good? You cannot. You know what we do? We do what we always do. We rise up. We reach down inside of us. We find a way to get it done. We will get it done. Next week we will continue on in John, and I can guarantee you it will not be any better than it was today.