

### Metaphors of Christ #3: Christ as the True Light

Previously we studied Christ as the Word of God, and Life. Several of the verses we looked at associated three concepts together – the Word, Life, and Light.

#### Light

As God is the source, creator, and sustainer of all life, so He is also the source and creator of light. In the beginning (Gen. 1) He said “Let there be light”, and there was. Sun, moon, stars, nebulae, galaxies, the northern lights, fire, lightning, . . . Go to an internet search engine like Bing.com or DuckDuckGo.com (not Google), and do a search on “Hubble pictures”. These are all just natural (created) forms of light. Man has been able to generate light, but only by the study and harnessing of the chemical and physical properties of the energy and matter that God originally created.

Above these, there is the light of God’s glory, the glory of his presence. This light is not created – it is a manifestation of God Himself. The light of His glory existed even before the creation

- Ex. 34:29-35 – Moses’ face shone just from being in God’s presence.
- Ex. 40:34-38 – the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle when it was first set up.
- 1 K. 8:10-11 – God’s glory filled Solomon’s temple when they first brought the ark into the Holy of Holies
- Ezek. 1:26-28 – he describes God’s glory as fire, brightness, and the rainbow. Also 10:4 – “the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory.”
- Mt. 17:1-6 – on the mount of transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in his glory. “His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.”
- Rev. 1:14-16 – of the Son of man, “His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace, . . . and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”
- Rev. 21:24 – in the new Jerusalem, the heavenly city, there will be no sun or moon, “for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it . . . for there shall be no night there.”

Although I don’t know of scripture to prove it, I am inclined to think that God’s glory is always present everywhere, that His life and light are radiating through all the universe, and that we ordinarily just don’t have the ability to see it, just like our eyes are incapable of seeing infrared or ultraviolet light, or X-rays. It is like we have a veil over our eyes, and only see the glory when He allows it. This is merely my opinion or conjecture, not a statement of fact.

What we do know is that whenever and wherever God chooses to “localize” His presence (like the mercy seat, the temple, or the mount of transfiguration), or to allow men into His heavenly presence (like Ezekiel and Revelation), His glory shines with indescribable brilliance.

But there are other ways he shines his light on us, not visible to the natural eye.

1. **Jesus is “the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world”** (Jn. 1:9). This means ALL men, not just believers.
  - a. **The light of reason**, as rational creatures – memory, reflection, determination, calculation, deduction, logic, planning, art and music, humor, learning, reading and writing, design and construction skills, ability to observe, analyze, and generalize physical concepts (chemistry, physics, electricity, neurology, medicine, etc.)
  - b. **The light of morality and ethics** – God imparts to all men some conception of right and wrong
  - c. **The light of conscience** – this is not the knowledge of right and wrong, but the sense of “ought”. That is, that we ought to do what is morally right, and ought not to do that which is wrong. God gives to every man a conscience, but not all men use it correctly. Some have a “weak” conscience (1 Cor. 8:7), or even a seared conscience (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

## 2. A spiritual light that comes especially to believers

- a. **It reveals to us our own sinfulness, and who God is.** Ac. 2:37 – “They were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Dan. 4:34-37 (the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar)
- b. **It enables us to see who Christ is in truth** – Jn. 1:12-14 Being written by John, this could certainly refer to the mount of transfiguration when he, Peter, and James saw Jesus in his glory. But in another sense it applies to all those who received him (verse 12) and have become sons of God. We see him, not just as a Jewish carpenter or moral teacher, but as he is in truth. God has enlightened our eyes so that in our minds we see him in his glory as the one and only Son of God.
- c. **It lights our way, enabling us to walk the Christian life.** Ps. 119:105 – “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Jn. 8:12 – “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”
- d. **It enables us to understand God’s ways.** Ps. 119:130 – “The entrance of thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding to the simple.”
- e. **It enables us to be cleansed from sin and to have true fellowship with one another.** 1 Jn. 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.”
- f. **It enables us to endure afflictions.** Heb. 10:31-32 – “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions:”

2 Cor. 4:6 – “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”