

Sermon Outlines

Christ As The Light and His Consistency

Reading

1 John 1:5

Introduction

When writing his gospel and first epistle, John lays great emphasis on Christ and God as the “Light” (Jn. 8:12; 1 Jn. 1:5). He is not the only writer who describes the Lord as such for the writer to the Hebrews speaks of the Lord as, “the brightness of His glory”, the outshining of glory (Heb. 1:3).

- a) In John’s gospel the Lord is referred to as the Light on a number of occasions, being designated as:
 - i) The Light of men (ch. 1:4)
 - ii) The Light (ch. 1:7)
 - iii) The true Light (ch. 1:9)
 - iv) The Light which lighteth every man (ch. 1:9)
 - v) The Light of the world (ch. 8:12; 9:5; 12:46)
- b) In other passages He is spoken of as:
 - i) The light of truth (Psa. 43:3)
 - ii) The light of the knowledge of the glory of God (2 Cor. 4:6)
 - iii) The Light to lighten the Gentiles (Isa. 49:6)

Others are also called “lights”, for instance:

- a) Every saint conveying the moral obligation placed upon them:
 - i) “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid” (Matt. 5:14).
 - ii) “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).
 - iii) “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15).
- b) John Baptist was spoken of as a “light”:
 - i) “He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light” (Jn. 5:35).
 - ii) “The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all [men] through him might believe” (Jn. 1:7).

But, Christ alone is the Light, par excellence, beside whom all others are flickering shadows due to the distortion of sin within the human frame. Christ was consistent as the Light, whereas the only thing consistent about us is our inconsistency.

- a) We automatically have double standards like the Pharisee and the publican (Lk. 18:11), and one by which we assess the behaviors of others depending on whether we like them or not (Rom. 2:15).

Christ's Unlikeness To Us

Thank God that Christ was not like us for:

- a) What value would there be in His sacrifice if He was just as inconsistent as we are. An inconsistent sacrifice would never satisfy the claims of a perfect God.
- b) Thankfully He was perfectly consistent, not in the consistency of man’s perception, but in fullness of fellowship with the heart, mind, timing, and character of God.
- c) He was the Light of the world, without defusing or dimming. It was totally irrelevant if:
 - i) He were alone being tempted (Matt. 4:1-11) or in public temptations (Matt. 19:3; 22:35; Mk. 8:11). He was the Light and was always perfect in His responses.

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- ii) Whither it was the disciples needing rebuke for lack of faith (Matt. 8:26) or a woman needing encouragement in her faith (Mk. 5:34), He was the Light, and always perfect in His responses.
- iii) Whither when being with His own correcting them (Lk. 10:40-42) or others wanting Him to correct someone else (Lk. 12:13-21), He was the Light and always perfect in His responses.

Being the Light meant:

- a) He could never behave contrary to God and His own character for that would have been disobedience (Rom. 5:19; Heb. 5:8), something the Lord knew nothing about. He was perfect in every way.

As He is the Light of the world, the Lord must be consistent in all that He said and did relative to His own character. Therefore:

- a) He must be unwavering, uncompromising, standing for that which He believed, and speaking the truth irrespective of what it cost Him personally.
 - i) When before the High Priest who put under the voice of adjuration saying, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God" (Matt. 26:63), Christ, knowing the law (*which is recorded in Leviticus 5:1 that when the voice of adjuration is heard then the individual must answer*), it was then the Lord, while knowing the ramifications of His words, said, "Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matt 26:64).

As the Light, in His consistent consistency the Lord will:

- a) Expose inward corruption. Therefore, when speaking to the Pharisees, and scribes He said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness" (Matt. 23:27).
 - i) How easily we justify ourselves by foolishly comparing ourselves to others. It is like standing in front of a distorting window saying, "I'm not fat, and not as fat as so in so". What a foolish way of assessing.
 - ii) When the Lord walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, He tells their true condition, not what they thought they were, nor who they want to be seen as, but as they really are (Rev. 2:1-3; 22).

The other avenues in which the Lord is consistent

The revealer of God, etc.

- a) I (Rowan Jennings) have had and have multiple roles. I am a man, a husband, a baker, a Bible teacher, a mine worker, a father, and a son, and it is very hard to be consistent in every avenue.
- b) Christ had to be consistent in every avenue of life, a son, a step brother, a mentor, a teacher, an evangelist, a carpenter, and apparently a business man.
- c) Christ had to be consistent as the manifestation of every attribute of God.
 - i) What is God like?
 1. God is Light, that is our subject for this and the next session.
 2. He is the God of all comfort
 - (a) The woman with the issue of blood (Matt. 9:22), "be of good comfort", have no anxiety or fears, do not be alarmed or distracted.
 - (b) The man sick of the palsy, "Be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee" (Matt. 9:2).
 - (c) The disciples, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid" (Matt. 14:27).
 - (d) If the Lord is the manifestation of God, then He must be at all times in all actions consistent with that reality.

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God is Light and Christ in His Consistency Must Ever Be The Brightness of Divine Glory

- 1) That brightness will never decay or dull.
 - a) It is effulgence not refulgence, not light reflected, but personal glory manifested.
 - b) How that Light shone when he was here on earth.

- 2) The Lord was consistent in His judgments.
 - a) John 8. The Lord is in the Temple teaching, the scribes come with the woman and set her in the midst
 - i) Master, this woman taken in the very act of adultery, what do you say?
 - (1) If He says “No”, He then breaks the Law of God, for God in the law, stone her.
 - (2) If He says “Yes,” where is the compassion and grace and His love? On his shoulders lies the life or death of this woman.
 - ii) It is then the Light begins to blaze in all its glory.
 - (1) “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her”

 - b) Setting: Make my brother that he divide the inheritance with me.
 - i) And he said unto them, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Lk. 12:15)

- 3) The Lord was consistent in His evaluations concerning those who hold traditions over the word of God.
 - a) The imagination that true spirituality is holding external ritualism over the word of God.
 - i) The scribes and Pharisees come from Jerusalem, your disciples eat with unwashed hands (Matt. 15:1-2).
 1. Cp Feeding the 5000
 - ii) Why do thy disciples transgress the traditions of the elders?
 1. Then the Light blazes
 - (a) Why do you transgress the commands of God?
 - (b) In vain do you worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
 - iii) The man with the withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath day (Mk. 3:1-6).
 1. They watch him, “Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?”
 2. His censuring looking with anger, “Is it right to do good or evil?”
 3. The light was shining and it incurred their anger and wrath.

- 4) The Lord was consistent in His impartiality.
 - a) The light will blaze on the wrongs of the disciples as well as the religious hypocrites.
 - i) He censured the Pharisees (Matt. 23:13), yet will speak well of them in their sincerity and endeavors (Matt. 5:20).
 - ii) He censured Peter when he intruded into that which was none of his business (Jn. 21:21-22). The light blazed, Peter do your own work.
 - iii) He will expose that power behind human actions, as with Peter (Matt. 16:23).

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia