



“Dear Children, There Is No Competing With The Candle Power of the Son”

1 John 1:5

Sunday | October 22th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 1:5

(See also Gen. 1:1-4, Jn. 1:1-10, 3:16-21, 8:12, Rev. 21:23, Is. 9:2, 6, 42:6-9)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Martin Lloyd-Jones] “The first principle is this: we must always start with God... Now it may sound strange to some that we take the trouble to put that in a form of a principle. ‘Surely,’ someone may feel like arguing, ‘that is something that is self-evident and obvious. Surely the very first and basic thing for Christian people is that

they should start with God.’ And yet I want to suggest that half our troubles arise in the Christian life because we do not start at this point. It is because we tend to assume that we know the truth about God, it is because we tend to assume that everything is all right in our ideas about God that many, if not most, of our problems occur, because we constantly start not with God but with ourselves. So many people assume that they believe in God and that therefore they need to be concerned about examining their belief. ‘I have always believed in God,’ says someone, ‘it has never occurred to me not to believe in Him. So in all their thought about these things they tend not to start with God, because they assume that; rather, they tend to start with themselves.’¹

DISCUSS

1. What does it feel like to be in complete darkness? What does it feel like to then have light?

2 Light and darkness are prevalent themes in Scripture (*both literally and metaphorically*). Can you think of some examples? As metaphors, what things do they typically represent?²

3. Read John 1:1-10, 3:16-21, 8:12 and discuss. What do you notice concerning light and darkness? What do we learn about Jesus? What do we learn about ourselves?

4. Read 1 John 1:5a. How does the first part of vs. 5 tie back to vss. 1-4? Do you see any connection? If so, what is the significance?

5. Pastor Patrick said your personal testimony is only powerful because of *THE* testimony. What did he mean by that?

6. Read 1 John 1:5. What is the message that John heard and was proclaiming to his hearers? Why is it important that he start there? What is at risk if we don’t start with the holiness of God?

7. Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote, “*The first answer of the gospel can always, in effect, be put this way: ‘Forget yourself and contemplate God.’*”³ Discuss.

8. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

¹Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), p. 94.

²Life and death, good and evil, disclosure and secrecy, truth and lies, God’s kingdom and Satan’s kingdom, etc...

³Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), p. 95.