

Light V

The Light of the Righteous

The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.¹

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood [*Or darkness, and the darkness has not overcome*] it.² We are familiar enough with the version that the darkness has not overcome the light. However, it is also written that the darkness has not understood it.

The light of the righteous does not refer to the light of righteous men, for just as only God is good, God is the only Righteous One. *Glory to the Righteous One.*³ So that we may just understand that the light of the righteous is the light of God, and that light comes from understanding how righteous God is. Until you begin to see how righteous God is, you will never understand God who is Light. *God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all.*⁴ The lack of darkness, total lack of darkness, means that there is nothing that God does not understand, even the hearts of men. *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."*⁵

You are being introduced to more of the lights of Light (God) so that in your reading of His word and in the living of your life with all its complexities and experiences, whether good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant, you may come to know Him more. And as you come to know Him more, not just love Him, but also understand Him. He who is Light cannot be overcome by darkness. He who is Light desires us to understand Him. You cannot love someone unless you know him, and you cannot understand someone unless you know him, really know him. That is why the word 'know' in John 17:3⁶ carries with it the biblical implication of being 'married' to God – knowing Him as a man 'knows' a woman. It is also why Paul the apostle wrote of the mystery of Christ and His church with the illustration of marriage and the two becoming one flesh. *This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*⁷

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*⁸ The light of the righteous is the understanding of the ways of God in that you are able to see and understand how righteous God is. Isaiah's first commission was to, *"Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving. Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.'"*⁹ So it is as Jesus said, *"I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand."*¹⁰

How many times have I heard quoted to me, *"God made Him who had no sin to be sin [*Or be a sin offering*] for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God,"*¹¹ when I just came into the kingdom, and for years, it sounded good but I had no understanding. I did not understand how God made Jesus to be sin and a sin offering, for He was sinless and could not sin, and He fulfilled the law. So how was He made sin?

You can see and you can hear, you can eat and taste or feel, but until you understand, you do not know how and why it is so. Without understanding, you do not come to know the motive of God, and getting to know a person's motive is just a deeper level of knowing. And knowing a person's motive will either deepen your love and respect for that person, or cause you to lose your respect and love of that person. That is in everyday life and it is so with eternal life. Coming to understand the righteousness of God in the light of righteousness (in understanding of His righteousness) allows you to deepen your love and respect for God if you love righteousness. If you don't love righteousness, then it will hold little value for you. You will disdain it, or if you hate righteousness, you will hate the righteousness of God. And so you are judged.

¹ Proverbs 13:9

² John 1:4-5 and its footnote

³ Isaiah 24:16

⁴ 1 John 1:5

⁵ Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁶ *Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.*

⁷ Ephesians 5:32

⁸ Proverbs 9:10

⁹ Isaiah 6:9-10

¹⁰ Matthew 13:13

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 5:21 and its footnote

There is implied now and it should be clear to you who are hearing this that this series of lights of the knowledge of His glory, of His life, of the world and of Israel speaks of the ever increasing revelations of God so that if you are getting to know Him more, your response to this revelation will determine how close you will get to Him.

The light of the righteous (the understanding) will herald you into the light of His Presence, if you delight in understanding how He does things.

It has taken a personal journey of an unceasing desire and hunger to know Him before I saw how God made Him who was without sin to be sin for us. In Acts 8:26-35 of Philip and the Ethiopian, the passage that the Ethiopian could not understand was: **He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a Lamb before the shearer is silent, so He did not open His mouth. In His humiliation He was deprived of justice. Who can speak of His descendants? For His life was taken from the Earth.**¹² Philip began with that very passage of Scripture.¹³ The Ethiopian was so enthusiast that seeing some water, he said, **"Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"**¹⁴ Who did the explaining? Not Phillip, just the Holy Spirit using Phillip's mouth, for it was the Holy Spirit who took Phillip to the Ethiopian's side.¹⁵ The silence of the Lamb of God. The Lamb of God – that's what John the Baptist called Jesus who took away the sin of the world. **Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**¹⁶

Levitical Law required two goats (not lambs) to make atonement for the people.¹⁷ So to make atonement not just for Israel but the world, one lamb is not enough. One lamb was used for personal sin,¹⁸ but atonement required two goats (lambs) for which one was chosen by the casting of the lot as the sin offering and another as a scapegoat to **carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place**¹⁹ and is released into the desert.

The process by which Jesus became the sin (sin offering) on our behalf was effected through Leviticus 5:1 – **"If a person sins because he does not speak up when he hears a public charge to testify regarding something he has seen or learned about, he will be held responsible."** Jesus was accused by two false witnesses. **Finally two came forward and declared, "This Fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"**²⁰ It was false testimony, for what Jesus actually said was, **"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."**²¹ But when **the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are You not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against You?" But Jesus remained silent.**²² By His silence, Jesus became responsible for the sin and thus became sin, and His slaughter became the sin offering.

The righteousness of God is that everything He does is in fulfilment of His own law. The due process of all the works of God are according to His word and thus His laws, and God Himself abides in them.

The light of the righteous is the ability to understand the mysteries of God.

Another mystery: How can Jesus say to those who call Him, "Lord, Lord,"²³ who prophesied in His Name and in His Name driven out demons and performed many miracles, or those who ate and drank with Him²⁴ and heard Him teach, that He never knew them? **"Away from Me, all you evildoers!"**²⁵ You may say that is Jesus' all knowing judgment, but by what process and by what precedent of God's word could He say that? Jesus said, **"I only say what I hear My Father say." "My teaching is not My own. It comes from Him who sent Me."**²⁶ God said, **"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge."**²⁷ Those people who called Him, "Lord, Lord," and prophesied, drove out demons, did miracles in His Name, ate and drank with Him, and listened to Him teach, did not bother to come to know or understand Him. Since they did not come to know Him, they had no eternal life.²⁸ As such, they were and could be rejected by Jesus if He so chooses.

¹² Isaiah 53:7-8

¹³ Isaiah 53:35

¹⁴ Isaiah 53:36

¹⁵ Isaiah 53:29

¹⁶ John 1:29

¹⁷ Leviticus 16:8

¹⁸ Leviticus 5:5-6

¹⁹ Leviticus 16:22

²⁰ Matthew 26:61

²¹ John 2:19

²² Matthew 26:62-63

²³ Matthew 7:21

²⁴ Luke 13:26

²⁵ Luke 13:27

²⁶ John 7:16

²⁷ Hosea 4:6

²⁸ John 17:3

Anything that does not add to your personal knowledge and understanding of Jesus is evildoing.

- Healing the sick for the sake of healing is evildoing. Healing the sick to understand the Healer is commendable.
- Prophesying for the sake of knowing what is to come is evildoing. Prophesying so that knowing what is coming to help understand the Prophet or He who is creating what is coming is commendable.
- Doing miracles to prove that all things are possible with God is evildoing. Doing miracles to understand the miraculous God is commendable.

So again, the light of the righteous is the understanding of God and His word, His way, His mind, His Spirit, His soul and His heart.

As a final illustration on understanding the mysteries of God through the light of His righteous One: Have you ever wondered why Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him"²⁹ This single teaching of the Lord lost most of His disciples, but yet Jesus had to teach us to eat His flesh even if He were to lose all of His disciples. Why? Because if He is to be truly the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world, then just like the flesh of the sacrificial lamb,³⁰ it must be eaten, and those who eat it are the priests only, which is why you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood.³¹ Just as it was prescribed in Levitical Law, so Jesus applied to Himself and thus fulfilled the entire law in Himself, so that He could set us free from the obligations of the law into the freedom that comes by faith, by which Jesus said, "Everything is possible for him who believes."³²

Now light becomes darkness when you begin to believe without seeking to understand and know, but the darkness becomes light when you seek to believe so that you might understand. The greatest challenge of faith for those who are saved already is to believe that you can come to know Him and understand Him, for love's expression reaches its greatest heights in knowledge based on understanding.

The light of the righteous shines brightly because you understand the heart and mind of God.

The light that gives you understanding to see how righteous God is, truly righteous, allows you to accept the word with understanding to give the crop of 30, 60, 100 fold. "But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."³³

That is why Jesus complimented the teacher of the law in Mark 12:28-34, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God,"³⁴ because the teacher of the law said, "To love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength,"³⁵ for he put 'heart and soul'³⁶ as 'understanding'.

The Kingdom of Heaven's righteousness, which Jesus said, "...seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,"³⁷ is seeking to understand the heart and soul of God first, so that you can see how the Kingdom of Heaven is truly meant to be by a God who desires mercy not sacrifice, obedience and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Then we will let loose light here on Earth so that it may be loosed in Heaven, and bind understanding to us so that it may be bound in the Heavens. And with the keys of the kingdom that we are given, we shall do it so that when you come to the final understanding, you will see it is not man who glorifies God, for God has no need of glory from men who are but His handiwork, but it is God who has glorified men by making men in His Image. "Let Us make man in Our Image, in Our Likeness."³⁸ And God has redeemed men by His only Son, giving men who believe the right to be His children, even growing up to be His sons. It is God who has glorified men and all men have done is spurn Him. That is why Isaiah wrote: **Glory to the Righteous One.**³⁹ And the elders said, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power."⁴⁰

²⁹ John 6:53-56

³⁰ Leviticus 6:26

³¹ 1 Peter 2:9

³² Mark 9:23

³³ Matthew 13:23

³⁴ Mark 12:34

³⁵ Mark 12:33

³⁶ soul and mind (Mark 12:30)

³⁷ Matthew 6:33

³⁸ Genesis 1:26

³⁹ Isaiah 24:16

⁴⁰ Revelation 4:11