

THE LIGHT HAS COME!
John 1:6-13

19 Jan 2014

Open your Bibles to John 1, as we continue our study in John's Gospel. – Yesterday my son reminded me of the story about the drug addict who got saved through this book. – He was in prison, and the only paper he could find for smoking marijuana was a Bible. He said,

'I smoked my way through Matthew, Mark & Luke, but when I got to John's Gospel, it smoked me. I made the mistake of reading some of John's pages before I smoked them, and soon I couldn't put it down. The Holy Spirit cut me deep with conviction over my sin and unbelief and my need for Christ. No longer could I light up the Bible. The Bible had lit up me.'

John begins with his magnificent Prologue in vv. 1-18, which we're taking our time to savour & enjoy. – John uses 3 different metaphors to show the deity of Christ, how Jesus is God: He calls Him the Word, the Life, and the Light.

Christ is the Word because IN Him, God speaks. – Christ is the Life because *through* Him, God gives life. – Christ is the Light because BY Him, everything is illuminated. – Spiritual truth & life cannot be found outside of Jesus, God's Son.

~ J.C. Ryle: *Christ is to the souls of men what the sun is to the world. He is the center and source of all spiritual light. Like the sun, He shines for the common benefit of all mankind, for high and for low, for rich and for poor, for Jew and for Greek. Like the sun, He is free to all, all may look at Him and drink health out of His light.*

If millions of mankind were mad enough to dwell in caves underground, or to bandage their eyes, their darkness would be their own fault and not the fault of the sun.

So likewise, if millions of men and women love spiritual darkness rather than light, the blame must be laid on their blind hearts, and not on Christ. Rom. 1:21, "their foolish hearts are darkened". But whether men will see or not, Christ is the true sun and the light of the world. There is no light for sinners except in the Lord Jesus.

Stand, Read (vv. 1-13) & Pray:

Give title...

***FOUR ILLUMINATING TRUTHS about Christ, the Light of the world, and your response to Him:**

After vv. 1-5, some might be asking, 'Is this just something beautiful & poetic that John dreamed up, about the Word & life & light? Are these just heavenly ideas, or did they have an earthly location & address? Are these merely nice, timeless truths or did they happen at a point in time?'...

To answer that, John shows us how this story is anchored in real history. – It's rooted in factual events verified by eyewitnesses. – Like the other 3 Gospels, John begins with that pivotal figure who paved the way for Jesus' coming: John the Baptist.

1. vv. 6-8, WITNESS of the Light: What is MINISTRY all about?

Every week there seems to be a new Christian book published about what real ministry should be – about that ‘golden key’ that we’re missing, that breakthrough that we need, that ‘silver bullet’. – Everyone is desperate for the quickest way to grow their church, increase their numbers, and do whatever it takes to get results.

But if we want to know the real nature of biblical ministry – if we want the right model for what the Church should be most concerned about and preoccupied with – you can’t get a better example than John the Baptist.

v. 6 – There stood the fulfilment of ancient prophecies some 700 years earlier. – Announced by an angel. – Born to aging parents, by God’s miraculous intervention. – Leaping in his mother’s womb when Mary greeted her. – The first prophetic voice, first word from God heard in Israel in over 400 years! – No wonder we are told he was “sent from God”!

Some say as many as 300,000 Jews went out to John in the desert to be baptised at the Jordan river. – They’d gone out to see this fiery-eyed preacher, dressed in camel’s hair, eating locusts & wild honey, calling religious leaders “vipers”, urging all to repent & bear fruit, lest they perish.

We’ll see more about him soon, in 1:19ff.

☒ It’s been said of John the Baptist, “the whole man was a sermon”. He embodied his message, his life preached. – “Preaching is not the performance of an hour; it is the outflow of a life.” (E.M. Bounds) That was true of John. – May it be true of us as well.

v. 7 – “witness”, one word that summed up all of John’s life & ministry. – It’s used 3x here in vv. 7-8, same Grk root (*marturo*)....

It’s a big theme in this entire book: “witness” is used 47x in total in its different forms.

This Gospel calls many different witnesses to the stand to verify the truth about Christ. – John the Baptist is but the first of many to come.

☒ What the theme verse for the entire Book of Acts, the whole mission of the Christian Church? – Acts 1:8...

Called to be a “witness”. – NOT called just to give personal testimony about his own experience, or just to share his heart or express himself. –

No, called to be a “witness”. – Called to testify of what he had seen and heard. – Called to be a truth-teller, a confirmer, a verifier of what had happened, to pass it on faithfully, to give an accurate record, a reliable account, to establish the truth of what actually happened.

+ Get the picture: in the eyes of an unbelieving world, Jesus is on trial. – They’ve made themselves the judge. – Jesus is in the dock.

So what does God do? – His Holy Spirit enlists us to step into the hostile courtroom of this world. – He sends us to the bar, to be advocates & attorneys, the counsel for the defense, bearing witness to Christ. –

Like Paul in Acts: persuading, presenting the evidence, proclaiming the truth. – Acts 20, Paul summed up his ministry as “solemnly testifying”. – Acts 2, Peter’s sermon at Pentecost was one of “testifying”.

+ John 10:41, the crowds pay the ultimate compliment to John the Baptist: “everything John said about this man [Jesus] was true!” – John was such a faithful witness that he sealed his testimony with his own blood, losing his head because of his preaching.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?... v. 7c... Exposing unbelief, calling sinners to faith...

☒ NB, v 7d, “through him”. – As Rom. 10 puts it, “faith comes by...hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. And how they shall hear without a preacher?” – God uses instruments. – People get saved “through him”, through a witness, through you & me proclaiming Christ faithfully.

That’s why Paul said, “Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel. I am a debtor to all men.” – I dare not fail to preach. – I must speak. (Enough of this guilty silence. – Let us open our mouths and tell of Christ!...)

v. 8 – By chp. 3, we start to see that the followers of J. The Baptist lost the plot. – He was indeed a great man, but there was One greater. – John’s followers forgot that he was inferior to Jesus, that Jesus was supreme, not John. –

Jesus was the Light, John was the witness. – Jesus was King, John was but His ambassador, His ‘best man, friend of the groom’, as we’ll see in chp. 3. – Don’t forget Whose wedding it is!...

Don’t confuse the Light with His light-bearers: v. 8...

NB, one way he shows us here that John the Baptist was a pointer to the Light, not the Light Himself: vv. 3 & 7 use same word as v. 6a, “came into being, made”. – John the Baptist was great, but he was still a creature; Jesus was Creator. – One was “made”; the other was the Maker.

John ‘came into existence’; Jesus always existed, v. 1. – John was “sent from God” (v. 6); Jesus “was God”, and had forever been “with God”. –

John is called a “witness”; Jesus is called “the Word”, God’s best & final sermon, God’s very own self-revelation & speech. –

John was great; Jesus was greater, much greater.

No wonder then that John said, “He must increase; I must decrease” (Jn. 3:30)....

☒ Beloved, this is what MUST characterise all Christian witness & all true ministry: “about the Light...about the Light” (vv. 7-8). – It’s not about you, not about me. – We are not the

light. – We can be tempted to think we're really clever & bright; but have no light on our own, we cannot save one soul. – Apart from Christ, "we can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5).

Ministry is NOT about our experiences, our emotions, our personality, our style, our brand of church, etc. – Our message to the world is all "about the Light". –

Our witness must be Christ-centred, Christ-dominated, Christ-saturated. – Our witness begins NOT with *how* you should live, or *what* is the 'Christian thing' to do or not to do. – Our witness is not about some self-help program, some motivational inspiration, some plan for improving your health, finance, purpose, or outlook on life.

No, our witness is all about a Person. – Christianity is all about Christ. – All "about the Light".

John the Baptist's message was not, 'Behold me.' – It was "Behold the Lamb of God!" – Only He can "take away the sin of the world!"

Col. 1:28...!

Like John the Baptist, we are called to a *3-dimensional Christian witness* (here in vv. 6-8):

(1) "from God", certain that we are God-sent, convinced we are on HIS mission, not ours...

(2) "about the Light" – testifying of Christ alone, pointing away from self and to HIM!...

(3) "so that all might believe" – not concerned to entertain people or tickle their ears or win their approval, but urging them to repent & believe (solemnly testifying)!...

+ When you stand as witness in a courtroom, you are committed. – Lives hang in the balance. – A verdict awaits your words.

You cannot remain neutral. – You are bound by oath: 'I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.' –

You've crossed the line. – You're past the point of no-return. – You are a witness of the truth. – 'Here I stand, I can do no other.'

May this be our attitude as Christian witnesses in this world. – May this characterise Antioch as we seek to win the lost. – May we never take this task lightly or trivialise it. – May we discharge this duty with the utmost seriousness. –

This is what ministry is all about: testifying of Jesus, the only Light for a dark world (stumbling around in spiritual blindness, desperately in need of Christ).

2. v. 9, NATURE of the Light: *What kind of Light is Christ?*

v. 9 – v. 5 introduced us to “darkness”. – John’s Gospel will repeatedly show us that this sinful world is spiritually blind, stumbling in darkness. – BUT don’t for a minute think that this means there are no lights available! – Oh no, on the contrary:

The world is one big factory of lights – lights of every kind, lights of every shape & every size, lights for every room and every occasion. –

Of course, NEVER are these lights advertised truthfully. – The world never says, ‘Over here, false lights for sale! Discount prices on blindness, ignorance, a darkened mind, immorality, insanity, stupidity, folly’. – Of course not!

ALL false religions, all wrong ways of salvation, all lies about God and truth, they always come packaged as *bright ideas*, bright lights: ‘We promise you ‘Enlightenment’, ‘Progress’, ‘Discovery’, ‘Satisfaction, Happiness, fulfillment’, ‘A Breakthrough’, the latest, the greatest, etc.!’

BUT John doesn’t fall for that. – No, repeatedly in his Gospel, John shows us how the world is full of darkness. – All their shiny, sparkly, flashing, flickering little neon lights – they are lies. –

Their all false lights that will not last and cannot save you. – All the world can offer you are artificial bulbs that lure you away and lead you astray.

There is only one “true light”: v. 9...

The world thought Darwin’s evolution was a bright light, but instead it brought us a Nazi Holocaust and two world wars. – The world thought Freud’s psychology was a bright light, but instead it’s brought us a century of self-worship and pathetic victims. –

The world thought abortion was a bright light, but instead it’s brought us mass murder and miserable women. –

The world thinks gay marriage is a bright light, but already it’s bringing us more broken homes, gender confusion, and societal chaos. – The world thinks materialism is a bright light, but instead it brings us empty souls and anxious hearts.

What the world calls progress, God calls darkness. – What the world calls light, God calls a lie. –

YET the true Light has come! – We don’t have to stay in darkness, we can step into the Light, we can know the Light (and following Him through this dark world): vv. 7-9... (cf. Jn. 8:12)...

NB, v. 9b, better, normally: “which shines upon, exposes” every man. – I used to think this verse was saying that, somehow, Christ illumines and gives light to all people, through general revelation. – The Bible does teach that, but I don’t think it is John’s point here.

John’s context here is that of Christ’s coming in history. – For John, “coming into the world” always refers to the Incarnation. – You see it in the previous vss, vv. 7-8, and subsequent vss, vv. 10-11, 14....

When God sent His Son into this world, it was an invasion of the Light, piercing the darkness, exposes the world's blindness. –

As John will show us in the coming chps, most will flee the Light because they love darkness. – But some will flee the darkness, receive the Light and be cured of their blindness!

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin & nature's night,
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee!
(Charles Wesley)*

☒ May that be the testimony of every soul seated here today!...

3. **vv. 10-11, REJECTION of the Light:** *How do most people respond to Christ?*

How often do we hear people saying, 'If only God would prove Himself to me, then I would believe. If only God would take away all pain & injustice, and answer all my questions, then I would believe.' – But that's not true.

Because when God did come down and prove Himself, when God most 'showed up' in this world, look at the response He got:

vv. 10-11 – Two of the most outrageous sentences ever written. – Two of the most ironic, unexpected, upsetting statements in all the Bible. – We read here of the tragedy of an 'unknown Christ' and an 'unwelcome Christ'.

a. **v. 10, the unknown Christ**

v. 10 – Yikes, this is becoming a very 'worldly' passage – "world" used 4x now in last 2 vss.! –

For John, "world" normally = people in rebellion against God, lost humanity, those on the broad road that leads to destruction.

Mankind was the crown of all God's creation. – v. 3, "all things" made through Christ, of which man was the apex. – Man alone was made in God's image, made for a personal relationship with our Maker, to 'walk with Him in the garden in the cool of the day' (Gen. 2).

HOW THEN did humanity respond to its Maker's arrival as man? – HOW did we respond the glorious miracle of the incarnation, the gracious gift and incredible love of the eternal Word, Jesus, who took on human flesh and came to save us? –

HOW did we respond to the Son of God giving up all the comforts & riches of Heaven, to enter the poverty and ruin of this filthy planet, in order to die in our place and save us from our sins?...

v. 10c – Some of the most tragic words ever written. – We should have fallen on our faces, lost in wonder, love & praise. – We should've kissed His feet, hailed Him as King, lifted our hands in worship. – BUT instead: v. 10c...

'Jesus who? Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Isn't He demon-possessed? Isn't this Joseph & Mary's son? Who do say that you are – 'King of the Jews', hah!'

Rom. 1-2 tell us that, because of creation all around us and the conscience God has put inside of us, mankind knows there is a God. – All are "without excuse". – YET they "suppress that truth in unrighteous", they live in a constant state of denial and ingratitude. They 'exchange the glory of God' for pathetic, man-made idols.

So here, v. 10, the world treats Christ like a complete stranger. – With the eyes that He gave us, we glare and scoff at Him. – With the lips that He gave us, we take His name in vain. – With the necks that He gave us, we stiffen and resist His Word. – Repeat: v. 10...

+ The world treats Christ like an interruption, an inconvenience to our busy lives. – They treat Jesus like some beggar at an intersection:

'No thanks, no this time, not now. Maybe later.'

+ Kent Hughes tells the story of: *A poor family that was farming some land during the Depression. There was one son in this family, and his parents wanted the best for him. So they scrimped and saved so they could send him to university. After he had been gone for a year or so, his parents, who loved him very much, wanted to see him again. Again they saved, sold some things, and went to visit their son [at university].*

They arrived on campus, poorly dressed in their farm clothes. Seeing their son with some other boys, the father ran over to him. "Son, son, it's your father," he said. The son looked at his father without showing any sign of recognition. The father said again, "Son, it's your father and mother. We've come to see you."

The boy, perhaps embarrassed by his parents' poverty, turned to the other students and said, "I don't know who this is. He must be crazy."

☒ My unsaved friend, perhaps you say, 'Oh, I would never treat my parents that way.' – YET you are treating Christ that way, and He deserves more honour than all the parents in this world put together!...

v. 11, the unwelcome Christ

v. 11 – I.e., "He came to His own place, and His own people did not receive Him".

It was foolish enough for the world to ignore Christ. – Bad enough for any human, made in God's image, to treat the Lord as a stranger. – But now comes the biggest shock of all, the ultimate insult:

Even the Jewish people, God's very own covenant nation, His elect people – they too rejected Christ. – Those who, most of all, should've known better! – The most religious people on the planet!

Their very own Messiah, sent first to save them, coming first to restore them, YET: they spit in His face, they cry, 'Crucify Him, crucify Him. Instead release for us Barabbas,' a robber.

Their covenants with the patriarchs pointed to Christ. – Their temple pointed to Him. – Their priests and entire sacrificial system & ceremonies, all these pointed to the Passover Lamb who would come.

Their prophecies spoke of Messiah in great detail. – All the shadows & symbols of the OT anticipated Jesus. – Their entire OT Scriptures bore witness of the Christ who would come.

YET when He arrived, what did they do? – They slammed the door in His face. – 'No room in the inn'. – For 30 years he lived a sinless life before the eyes of all in Nazareth, only doing good. – Yet the first time He returned there to preach, they tried to kill him, tried to throw Him off a cliff!

For three years He ministered across the land of Israel. – He banished illness, expelled demons, made the blind see, the deaf hear, the dumb speak. – He calmed storms, walked on water, fed the 5,000, and even raised the dead!

For all this, what kind of welcome did He receive? – They assaulted Him, falsely accused Him, and dragged Him through one kangaroo court after another.

Then they stripped His clothes, stuck a crown of thorns upon His head, brutally scourged His back, and blindfolded Him and struck Him while they scoffed & mocked & spat upon Him.

Then they made Him carry His own cross up to Golgotha, where they nailed His hands & feet to that cross and hung Him there between two thieves.

Repeat: v. 11...

☒ Society today keeps telling us about our awesome human potential, our inherent goodness. – But God's Word says the opposite. - Jer. 17:9...

NEVER was there more graphic proof of that than this – what the Jews did with Jesus. – And they were only doing what any of us would've done. – Don't fool yourself. – Don't for a minute think we would've responded any better or any less wickedly.

☒ (vv. 10-11) 'Christ unknown, Christ unwelcome'. – This is the story of human history, the story of our own hearts. – All because of our spiritual blindness, our desperate darkness, *until God* turns on the lights.

HOW about you? – When you hear of Christ, are you throwing out the welcome mat? – OR are you slamming the door in His face?! (No 3rd option; indifference is still rejection....)

4. vv. 12-13, RECEPTION of the Light: *Will YOU be any different? How can YOU become a child of the Light instead of the darkness?...*

It's been said that vv. 11-12 could serve as an outline for all of John's Gospel:

Chps. 1-12, Rejection of Christ: 1:11, "His own did not receive Him"

Chps. 13-21, Reception of Christ: 1:12, "But as many as received Him...."

How glad I am that John doesn't stop with v. 11! – What a dramatic shift John makes here! — What a sweet contrast follows – a ray of hope pierces across the dark horizon of man's rejection of Christ. –

The Lord doesn't 'treat us as our sins deserve, nor reward us according to our iniquities'. – He is 'slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness to all who call upon Him'! (Ps. 103)

v. 12 – One of the first verses I memorised as a new Christian. – One of the most precious promises in the Bible – one we should hold close to our hearts!

There is always a remnant! – God has His elect in the darkest corners of the earth. – Human rejection cannot thwart God's plan. – In fact, it was all a part of God's plan. – Recall: v. 5...!

+ In the language of Jesus' parable: There may be 3 types of bad soil in which the seed never lasts, but there is also good soil. – Some will have ears to hear, some will respond!...

Repeat:

v. 12 – Is there any more privileged person on the planet than the believer? – Christian, do you realise WHO you are? –

They say, 'It's all about who you know. It's all about your connections in life'. – Well, who is more connected than the believer? – "child of God", offspring of the King, son or daughter of the Most High!

☒ You may be poor and lowly, you may have no earthly connections of any significance, nothing in this world that you can boast in. – Nevermind!: You can lift your eyes to Heaven and address the Maker of Heaven & Earth as, "Our Father Who Art in Heaven". –

Child of God, you can speak to the Creator of the Universe and call Him Daddy, 'Abba Father', as Scripture says. – And He looks at you and says, 'My child, My beloved, My elect & chosen one.'

The Apostle John could NOT get over this stupendous fact. – As an old man, some 60 years after Christ had left and ascended to Heaven, John could still say: 1 John 3:1...

~ One of my favourite quotes in J.I. Packer's classic, *Knowing God*: *You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as your holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.*

For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. 'Father' is the Christian

name for God. *Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption.*”

☒ YET NB, the condition: receiving & believing. – Two sides of the same coin. – NOT a dead, passive faith of mere assent & agreement...

NO, a living, active faith of complete surrender. – NOT just believing *that* Jesus exists, or even just believing *that* Christ died for you. – No, it is believing in “His Name”, i.e., in Him, in His whole person, in all that He is and all that He promises to be for every repentant sinner. –

“Receiving” not just some doctrine or religion, but receiving the Person of Christ. – Embracing & welcoming & submitting all that you are to all that He is!...

☒ NB, NO ONE is born into this world a child of God. – You must “become” a child of God. – There must be a re-birth, a re-creation.

Jesus is God’s only natural Son, from eternity past. – All of God’s other children must be *adopted*. – THAT is what God offers you here: adoption papers!

‘Abandoned orphan, forsaken one, child of the world, son of darkness, come out of the cold! Prodigal, come home! Leave your empty life of sin & rebellion. Enemy of God, lay down your weapons.’

‘Turn from the broad road that leads to destruction. Receive your adoption papers today. The Judge not only offers you acquittal & forgiveness & even justification, declaring you righteous in Christ the day you believe.’

‘BEST of all, He offers you adoption, the full legal rights & privileges of sonship. He doesn’t just release you from prison and set you free. He invites you home to the family table and gives you the family name: ‘Christian’, ‘Child of God!’

Repeat: v. 12...

~ John Bunyan’s last sermon before he died was from John 1:12. – Bunyan declared: *You that are called ‘born of God’, and Christians, if you be not criers, there is no spiritual life in you; if you be born of God, you are crying ones; as soon as he has raised you out of the dark dungeon of sin, you cannot but cry to God, ‘Abba Father’.*

BUT John ends with an important clarification:

v. 13 – NO ONE becomes a child of God naturally or ethnically. – God has no grandchildren. – You cannot be born a Christian. – You can have the most religious, godly, spiritual parents in the world. – But they cannot biologically transfer salvation to you. – Only God can save you. – God, and God alone.

As NIV puts it, “not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” (NIV) – “These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten.” (MSG)

What is decisive in salvation, over all human blood, human will, and human agency, is divine power. – The new birth is never an act of man. – It is always an act of God, always a sheer miracle.

As we'll see in John 8, the Jews boasted in being the ethnic children of Abraham. – But in salvation, that counts for *nothing!* – Your 2nd birth doesn't hinge on who gave birth to you the 1st time. – Salvation is by grace, not by race! –

NB, grace doesn't run in the blood; only depravity does! – Grace cannot come from within us. – It has to come from outside of us, from above!

Jn. 3:6, “that which is born of the flesh is flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to the spirit” – Flesh, that's all we humans can produce. – Only God's Spirit can bring spiritual life. – And He does that through the gospel:

As 1 Pet. 1:23 puts it, “you have been born again, NOT of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God”. – 1 Pet. 1:3, “Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again...!”

☒ Becoming a Christian is a change so radical that it can only be described in terms of a birth: new life, regeneration, recreation, new creation, the making of a whole new person! – 2 Cor. 5:17...!

Is that how your salvation could be described? (by you? by others? new eyes & ears, new hands & feet, new mind & heart, new priorities & affections)

☒ To whom do you ascribe your new birth? – WHO gets the credit & the glory? – Dad, Mom, preacher, church, friends, your decision? – No, a thousand times no! – Repeat: v. 13c...!

“We love because....HE first loved us.” (1 Jn. 4)

*I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
HE moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me.
It was not I that found, O Savior true;
No, I was found of Thee.*

*Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea.
'Twas not so much that I on Thee took hold,
As Thou, dear Lord, on me.*

*I find, I walk, I love, but oh, the whole
Of love is but my answer, Lord, to Thee!
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul;
Always Thou lovedst me.*

PRAY

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What does this word “witness” (vv. 7-8) teach us about our evangelism today? About overall ministry and the focus of the church – what it should and should not be?
2. Explain the significance and urgency of Christ being “the true Light” for your unsaved co-workers, family and friends. What are some of the most common false lights that can lure and mislead you or those around you?
3. In what ways today are we like the disciples of John the Baptist, tempted to focus more on the man than on his message, tempted to exalt the messengers of the Light above the Light Himself? (e.g., today’s Christian celebrity culture of top authors, speakers, shows, etc.)
4. vv. 10-11, Is Christ any more known or welcome today than in John’s time? If not, why not?
5. v. 12, How would you explain to a child how they can become a child of God, and why it matters?
6. v. 13, Why doesn’t John just stop with the great news of v. 12? Why does he add this? How does this clarification increase your gratitude for salvation and your praise to God?