



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### **The True Life and The True Light**

*The life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:4-5).*

We learn from the Gospel of John that any life anyone has was given to them and is maintained within them by Jesus. Any mental or spiritual light or truth anyone has was given to them and is maintained within them by Jesus. Anyone can learn these truths about God.

In Psalm 19:1-4, David declared, “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” From just looking around, David learned that the existence and character of God was obvious. So, why do some people refuse to believe these truths about God?

The Apostle Paul tells us why in Romans 1:18-22, 25, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of *those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them*, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So *they are without excuse*; for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but *they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened*. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; *they exchanged the truth about God for a lie* and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!”

Because people have lived in darkness and their foolish minds have become darkened, God the Father sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the

world to save people from darkness and death. God came in Jesus Christ to reveal the truth about God in ways and words that anyone can understand if they truly want to turn from darkness to find and understand God. After the heavens declared the glory of God, in the fullness of time God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to declare the love and glory of God in speech and action.

We live in a world today where increasing numbers of people and those in positions of leadership in almost every area of life worship the creation rather than the Creator and they want everyone to become like them. They have exchanged the truth about God for a lie. Increasing numbers of influential people keep proclaiming lies about God and creation in every way and place possible. Too many people are more concerned about saving creation than serving their Creator, the Creator and Sustainer of all creation. Though they think themselves wiser than others, they worship and serve mere creatures and the powers of darkness that would destroy God's creation and all human life. If people truly worshiped and served the Creator, they would wisely do what is best for creation and every creature.

To solve the world's problems, more people need to turn from darkness to Light, from death to Life, from fear to faith in God, from serving the ruler of this world to serving the true Life and Light—the Lord Jesus Christ. The Light of Jesus Christ shines brightly in the world despite the efforts of the ruler of this world and its followers to put out the Light. The worst the ruler of this world and its followers could do was crucify Jesus and kill him on a cross. But after three days in a stone-cold tomb, Jesus rose from the dead and He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation. Whereas the heavens declare the glory of God, Jesus also declares the glory of God as He lives, reigns, and shines within every one of His followers. The darkness could not *overcome* Jesus with the worst it could do, and His Light still shines in the darkness. Jesus promised in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” Jesus' true followers are also the light of the world as Jesus lives, gives life, shines, and works within them (see Matthew 5:14).

Likewise, the darkness and those who prefer living in darkness cannot *comprehend* Jesus. Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:21, “For though they knew God, *they did not honor him as God or give*

*thanks* to him, but *they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened.*” Because their senseless minds are dark, unbelievers cannot comprehend or understand the Light, the Truth. The KJV and the NASB translate John 1:5 using the word *comprehend*: “The Light shines in the darkness, and *the darkness did not comprehend it.*” If someone prefers living in darkness instead of living in the Light, prefers living in a lie instead of living in the truth, they will not comprehend the teachings of Jesus or the Bible. They will not learn the truth and they will not stop living a lie.

If someone wants to come out of the darkness, they can turn toward the Light, and the Holy Spirit will help them comprehend the Bible’s teachings so they can believe in Jesus Christ. The Truth of Jesus that the Bible reveals will help them turn from darkness to Light, to trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin and death, to walking in the Light according to Jesus—the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In John 14:6, Jesus declared, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Those who turn from darkness to Jesus will be able to rejoice in God as King David did in Psalms 27:1-4, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple”

When we turn to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we can come to know God as King David, John, and the Apostle Paul, and others have come to know God. We will know Jesus is our Light and Salvation.

To learn more about Jesus Christ and the way of salvation, [Begin or continue a study of the Gospel of John](#), with verse-by-verse commentaries, Bible Lessons, Study Questions, Study Hints, Applications, Crossword Puzzles, True and False Tests, and Word Search Puzzles, and Prayers, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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