

Upcoming Events

Ladies Bible Class: today, April 21 at 4:00 p.m.
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Hebrews class Thursdays at 11:00

Promises of God

“No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, and your God for your glory. Your sun will no longer set, nor will your moon wane; for you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, and the days of your mourning will be over.” Isaiah 60:19-20

April Birthdays

1 Daniel McKnight 3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson
16 Alana Hudson 17 Belva Meanor
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

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Light is Love

By Michael McKnight

I pray that you all are thriving in spirit, word and deed in our Lord Jesus Christ. I ask that you take a minute and consider all of the qualities of light. It exposes things hidden in darkness; it is able to discern color and form; it has the power to disinfect but also cause growth. Jesus in one of His many teachings of His Deity makes reference in John 8:12 to His relationship with both the Father and this world:

“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.’”

By Jesus stating that He is the “Light of the World”, Jesus is telling all who hear Him that He is of something greater than that of this world. The apostle John teaches that *“God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness.”* We know that the term “God” is not referencing just the Father alone, but the *“theos”* or Godhead. Light is used in scripture to describe the nature of God in many ways: the glory of God’s dwelling place (1Timothy 6:16); His nature in not having any darkness at all (1John 1:5); His impartiality (James 1:17); the illuminator of His people (Isaiah 60:19-20). In the gospel of John we see Jesus speak of being a Light or Illuminator of men here on earth (1:4, 9; 3:19; 9:5; 12:35-36, 46). Scriptures also reveal the working power of Light in the Word (Proverbs 6:23; Psalms 119:105; Isaiah 51:4). We also see the Light being used to describe the guidance of men by God (Job 29:3; Psalms 112:4; Isaiah 58:9-11).

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Most of the time when I consider the use of Light, I think about Jesus' sermon (Matthew 5:14-16); that our light is to be seen by men and that will glorify God. How often do we immediately think about our "example" in walking worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1) and not participating in evil deeds (Colossians 2:21-22)? It's easy to focus on what our Light is supposed to look like rather than focusing on the source of Light. God is Light (1John 1:5) and in Him is "Life" and that is the Light of men (John 1:4). If Christ is both the Light and the Life of men, then shouldn't we be streaming to Him for both? Instead of developing our connection to the nature and glory of God which is the source of Light, that which brings Life to our brokenness from sin, many will focus solely on whether or not their actions are righteous, leaning upon their actions to determine their spiritual state instead of leaning upon God. Problems arise from this shortsightedness if we cut ourselves off from the true source.

Let's consider another aspect of the Light which is the life of men and representative of the nature of God. Scripture also teaches us that God is love (1John 4:16) and that God truly has a love for us and that we can abide in "if" we abide in love. In John 13:34-35, Jesus teaches a new commandment:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The new commandment is that we love others, following that love which saves us. God is love and He is also the Light, and that Light is the life of men. In that Light dwells the Love that God has for us. IF we are abiding in Him, which is to say that we are abiding in His love for us, then we are abiding in His Light. How is this helpful to us today? How often do we feel inadequate in our representation of the Light of Christ, or that our deeds are few and that we just do not measure up to being that beacon shining on top of a hill in darkness? Could it be because of unaddressed sin in our

life, or maybe because we are not focusing on abiding in His love. God is the source and from that source flows all that is good and holy and right. We are not the source...God is. Our duty is to dwell in Him and He will illuminate us! Consider one more passage from 1 John 2: 8-10

"On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him."

The "true Light" that is already shining is Christ Himself. He is the source of Light and love that was displayed on the cross. In this text, the term brother (those whom we are being instructed to love) has more than just a familial meaning. It also can be our brethren in Christ. It can also mean our "fellow man". Just as the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves; therefore, we can only abide in the source of Light, the love God has for us, if we are loving others. For some reason, maybe because we are trapped in these earthly tents subjected to fleshly desires, we have trouble understanding that the Light Jesus wants us to show the world is from Him and not ourselves. The only way to abide in His Light is to abide in His love. The only way to abide in His love is to love others. 1 John 2:3 tells us that we can only know Him if we keep His commandments. If we do not have the love of God in us, then we will never be able to keep His commandments (Romans 10:8-11) and His Light will not shine forth from us.

My prayer is that we all draw closer to Him allowing His love to transform our soul and spirit. In doing this, His Light will definitely shine forth for others to see Him and glorify Him.