

BIBLE STUDY on JOHN (NIV) Part 14 (b)



Jesus Brings Light

When Jesus opened the blind man's eyes, He brought light into his life. But Jesus wanted to show that He had really come to open the spiritual eyes of *all* people who sit in darkness.

Many years before, God had promised through His prophets, that One would come who would bring light. God described Jesus, "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness." (Isaiah 42 v 6 + 7) Isaiah saw Jesus' day: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9 v 2)

When Jesus claimed to be the light of the world, the Jews knew Jesus was claiming to be God because God is light. "The Lord is my light and my salvation ..." (Psalm 27 v 1) "... Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my

light." (Micah 7 v 8b) David, thanking God, said, "You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light." (2 Samuel 22 v 29)

When we know Jesus, we know God. Jesus said, "If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well ..." (John 14 v 7 a) "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4 v 6) Have you received this light?

Walking in the Light

Those who follow Jesus do not walk in darkness any more but in light. "For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." (Ephesians 5 v 8)

"The part of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." (Proverbs 4 v 18)

God's Word is light. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalms 119 v 105) "The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." (Psalms 119 v 130) As we come to God's Word each day, we must *listen* and *obey* what it says. That is what it means to "walk in the light." *Doing what God says* is walking in the light. Do you remember Jesus' commandment that we should love one another? That is why God's Word says, "But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not

know where he is going because the darkness has blinded him." (1 Jn 2 v 11)

The quickest way to become blind is to walk in darkness all the time. When mules are used underground to help mine coal, they must be brought up to the light at least one day each week. If they were to be kept underground all the time, they would quickly go completely blind. So it is with us; we *must* keep walking in the light or else our spiritual eyes can be deceived by satan and he can blind our minds and hearts.

We Are the Lights in the World

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." (Phil. 2 v 14 + 15). God has *chosen* us to "...that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light", (1 Peter 2 v 9). Is *your* life a light to those around you? If not, the apostle Paul urges us to "...So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light." (Romans 13 v 12)

We need to be ready for our Lord's return. Only if we are awake and walking in the light, will we be ready. "You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep but let us be alert and self-controlled." (1 Thessalonians 5 v 5 + 6).

Jesus said, when telling about the new heaven and the new earth, that the new Jerusalem does not need "the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of

God gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp." (Revelation 21 v 23).

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus will be our light for all eternity!

Working While It Is Light

Until Jesus comes back, we need to work while it is light in this dark world. One day, this earth will pass away (Matthew 5 v 18). Those who have not come to the light will pass on into outer darkness for ever and ever (Matthew 22 v 13). Let us work "to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." (Acts 26 v 18).

The Jews once asked Jesus, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered them, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent." (John 6 v 28 + 29). Jesus taught very plainly that "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." (John 8 v 24).

First, we must be sure we ourselves have come to the Light to receive eternal life. Then we must work *with* Jesus to *bring others* to the Light. "Do not work for food that spoils, buy for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you". (John 6 v 27)

Remember the blind man in our story? He *boldly* told others what Jesus had done for *him*. Though he was cast out by those who were spiritually blind, Jesus cared and came to him to reveal even more of Himself to him. He will do this for you, too!