

I want to read a quote from a man named J.C. Ryle - He was a prominent Anglican Bishop and evangelical leader - He lived from 1816 to 1900 This is what he said -

The plain truth is that without Christ, there is no happiness in this world. Only Christ can give the gift of the eternal Comforter. He is The Sun; Without Him we never feel warm. He is The Light; Without Him we are always in the Dark. He is the Bread; without Him, we are always starving. He is the living water, without Him we are always thirsty.

AMEN

- Opening PRAYER
- Dean- 2 hymns

Attendance \_\_\_\_\_

I want to begin the class today by reading Genesis 1:1-5

IN the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. Now the Earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said "Let there be Light and there was Light. God saw that the Light was good, and He separated the Light from the darkness.

God called the Light Day and He called the darkness Night.

And there was evening, and there was morning - The first Day

It is interesting to Note that Light was created first - The sun, moon and stars were created later - on the 4th Day  
- They were not the source of Light  
- Only the conveyers of Light

It is Not a coincidence that God's first Creation was Light. Light equals Life. Light is energy. Without Light we don't see. God is the source of all Light, All Life, and all Love. All living things, both plant and animal, including man, Need light to grow and survive.

The word "Light" appears approximately 272 times in the Bible, 70 times in the Old Testament, over 200 times in the New Testament.

The first book of the Bible, Genesis, tells us that God's first creation was Light.

The last book, Revelation, speaks of the light in Heaven

★ Revelation 21: 23-25

★ Revelation 22: 5

Always think of Light as God's Presence

When God created man and woman to be in Fellowship with Him, He gave them all they needed to live in a perfect world.

Then Satan brought sin into the world and plunged it into Spiritual darkness. And a war between light and darkness began. A war between good and evil. A war for men's souls and that war is still raging. The curse of sin fell upon mankind and upon the very Earth itself.

God, in His great Mercy raised up the Patriarchs, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph to guide His people.

But Men loved the darkness rather than the Light because their deeds were evil

That was ~~John~~ John 3:19

And God appointed Prophets, from Moses to Malachi to warn people of God's wrath and the consequences of sin.

- But mankind continued to walk in darkness. So in these last days, because of His great Love, God came Himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

*Isaiah 9:2 gives the prophecy of Christ's Birth*  
 "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned."

*Jeremiah 31:33 tells us of a New covenant that God would establish over the old LAW*  
 God declares - "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time - I will put my LAW in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

★ *John 1:1-9 (Read from Bible)*

Jesus says 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"

★ *Randy will read Acts 26:12-18 where Paul tells of Christ appearing to him in a Bright Light*

What are some qualities of Light that compare to characteristics of Christ Jesus?

### ① The Purity of Light

Light cannot be contaminated. When light comes in contact with any dirty, filthy object, the light is still pure.  
- Jesus was Pure - Not contaminated by sin

### ② Light is Constant - Ever present

- The Sun is still shining even when the clouds obscure it - Jesus does not change. He is always with us

### ③ Light is Powerful - The Speed of Light is approximately 186,282 miles per second. An intense directional - amplified beam of light is used as a laser - used in surgery - it cuts like a knife

- Jesus has all power - He is part of the Trinity - God the Son - The Alpha and the Omega - The beginning and the End.

Just as the fact that we need light to live and survive a physical life - We need Jesus to live a Spiritual life.

His written word - the Bible - shines as a light and a lamp to guide us on our ~~way~~ home.

Psalm 119:105 tells us " Thy word is a lamp unto <sup>OUR</sup> feet and a light unto my path

Matthew 5:14 - Jesus tells His Disciples -  
 "You are the Light of the World"

We, as Christians, are to be a light to those around us so they will see Christ living in us -

We have no light of our own but only reflect the light of Christ.  
 - who is the TRUE Light

We can only do that by staying close to Him.

Remember the parable of the vine and the branches -

John 15:5 Abide in me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me

MEMORISE

REPEAT

Without Christ, We can do nothing.

→ ★ Read card - J.C. Ryle quote -

IN closing, I want to read the words of a song that refers to Christ as a Lighthouse

As a lighthouse guides the ships into harbor - we, as Christians are appointed to be the Lower lights along the shore to help those around us to Avoid the shallow waters and the rocks along the shore.

So after I read the verses of this Song - Dean will lead us all in singing - "Let The Lower Lights be Burning"

Then Dean will have a closing prayer and thanks for our meal Together

## THE Lighthouse

There's a lighthouse on the Hillside  
That overlooks life's Sea  
When I'm tossed - it sends out a light  
That I might see

And the light that shines <sup>↳ CLEARLY SEE</sup>  
IN darkness now  
Will safely lead us home  
If it wasn't for the Lighthouse  
My ship would be No more.

It seems that everyone around us says  
Tear that old lighthouse down  
The big ships just don't  
Pass this way anymore  
So there's no use in its standing round

Then my mind goes back to  
that one dark, stormy night  
When just in time I saw the light  
Yes, it was the light  
from that old lighthouse  
That stands up there on the Hill

And I thank God for the lighthouse  
I owe my life to Him  
For Jesus is the lighthouse  
And from the rocks of sin  
He has shown a light around me  
So that I may clearly see  
If it wasn't for that lighthouse  
Tell me, Where would this ship be ?