Lessons in Light

On the road to Damascus, Paul saw a light that was brighter than the noontime sun as Jesus spoke to him (Acts 22:6). It was that light that blinded him on the road (Acts 22:11). There are many passages that refer to Christ and the Father as light. From those passages there are lessons to be learned.

John opens his gospel with discussion of Jesus as light. “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man” (John 1:9). “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:5). Jesus stands as a stark contrast to darkness. The word “comprehend” in verse 5 is not a word that speaks to understanding. It refers more to the fact that darkness could not overtake or apprehend the light. Later in the gospel letter, John writes, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life” (John 8:12). And, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness” (John 12:46). This light is life and frees us from the darkness that is in this world.

Not only does His light liberate us, but it also exposes the deeds of men. “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God” (John 3:19-21). Those that will not step into the light choose not to so that their evil deeds will not be exposed. If we are doing those deeds that glorify God, then we should not ashamed. “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

Our relationship with God and His Son is described in terms of light and darkness. “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John. 1:5-7). I am in a right relationship with God in the light. I come in contact with the blood of Christ in the light. Why would I wander into darkness?

May these passages serve as a reminder “so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). – Josh Blackmer