

## The Church is God's Light

### Introduction

- The Apostle John was exiled on the island Patmos as punishment for being a leader in the churches of Asia Minor (v. 9).
- John was worshipping in the power of the Holy Spirit on Sunday when the resurrected Jesus spoke to him (v. 10).
- Jesus told John to write this letter to seven churches in Asia Minor as a blessing to those who read & obey (v. 11).
- Jesus is revealed as a Priest & Judge (v. 13-15).
- The seven churches are revealed as lampstands & the church leaders are revealed as stars (v. 16, 20).

### I. God is the Source of Light

#### A. Natural

*The world was created & began in darkness (Gen. 1:1-2). On the first day, God created light because it was needed in His new world (Gen. 1:3-5). On day four, God created the sun, moon & star to serve His purposes for light in His new world (Gen. 1:14-19). **There is not & cannot be any natural light apart from God.***

#### B. Spiritual

*Spiritual life & light is derived from being spiritually joined to God the source (1Tim. 6:16; Jas. 1:17; Eph. 5:8). Adam & Eve were created with spiritual life & light from God – fellowship, walking, talking (Gen. 2). Darkness is separation from God caused by sin & light can only be restored by God (Gen. 3; Eph. 5:8; Col. 1:13-14). **There is not & cannot be any spiritual light apart from God.***

**ILL:** When we walk into a dark house or room, we immediately attempt to find a switch to turn on the light. Light is essential for us to see naturally. But the switch is not the source of power for the light. The source of power is a power plant somewhere outside the home.

**APPL:** The same is true in life spiritually. We need spiritual light to see or understand things in life spiritually. We cannot generate spiritual light & understanding; it must come from God.

### II. The Church is the Steward of Light

#### A. The word of God is light

*OT & NT depict the word of God as light (Ps. 119:105; 2Pe. 1:19). The churches in Revelation 1 are depicted as lampstands or vessels in which light is placed. Believers are also depicted as vessels in which the light is placed (2Co. 4:5-7). The scriptures are spiritual light in a world filled with sinful darkness (2Pe. 1:19-21). The scriptures give light (understanding) in pleasing God & the church is to be a faithful steward of God's light.*

#### B. The believer's life is light

*The believer is light & the believer's lifestyle serves as light in the world (Mt. 5:14-16). Each member individually & collectively as a church is light to show people the character of God in daily living. This is emphasized repeatedly in the scriptures – Ac. 13:47; Phil. 2:15; 1Th. 5:5; 1Jn. 1:5-7. *The church is to be a place of honesty, humility, confession, grace, truth, love, joy, peace.... mercy, forgiveness, hope, etc. – a place of light! We have both this great privilege & responsibility, but we must be faithful stewards – diligent, discerning, determined... until the end.**

**The word of God & godly lifestyles in the church are to serve as light leading people to Christ as we make disciples.**

**APPL:** From the beginning of the bible to the end we see people mishandling the light that was given to them – Adam & Eve to the churches in Revelation. God warned Adam & Eve and the churches but they did not heed his warning (Rev. 2:5). As the moon reflects the light of the natural sun toward the earth, the church is to reflect the light of Christ to all people!