

**Preaching Christ....  
...by the power of the Holy Spirit  
...and the authority of the Word of God**

**Date:** 10 January 2020  
**Services:** *Across the Diocese*  
**Series:** John's Prologue  
**Title:** Jesus: light for our darkness  
**Passage:** John 1:4-9

**Outline:**

1. Light and life
2. Light and dark
3. Light and witness
4. Light for all

- Last week we began exploring this most magnificent passage, and we saw that Jesus is wonderfully **God-speaking to us** – God's **revelation** to us... God's **WORD!** //
- ...I want to suggest as we begin today – that we so desperately **need** that **Word** from **God**... //
- We know this **IS** a **very dark world** in which we **live**...
- ... and we know that it is **dark** because of humanity's **rejection** of **God**... humanity's **'I'll do it my way'** take on life... doing their **own thing** without **God**....
- It's been an interesting **experiment**... ///
- It hasn't **worked** /
- In fact, it has been a catastrophic **failure!** ///
- I don't know whether you've ever been away from home... and you've ever woken at night in a strange room - everything **pitch black**... and you're feeling about – stumbling around – until you find whether the light switch is... then – great **relief**... //
- Or there's been a **black out** at night in a **storm**... and you're amazed at how **dark** the **dark** is... until you **light** that **candle**.... //
- Or if you've been deep into one of those **limestone caves** – like **Jenolan Caves** in the **Blue Mountains** – and the guide has turned out the **light**... you can't see a thing.... And then **suddenly** – into the pitch-black darkness... comes **light**... as the guide turns the light back on...
- ...and when the light **comes**... in **all** of those situations... it's a **relief** – it's a **joy** – there's **clarity**... **direction**... there's calm... //
- Into this word's **very great darkness**, a **LIGHT** has come – **THE** light has **come**... the light which is Jesus Christ. //
- The light has broken **INTO** the darkness... - and here we find **relief** and **joy** and **clarity** and **direction**... //
- ... and here is how I want to explore these verses from John 1 – vv 4-9 with you today:
  1. Light and **life**
  2. Light and **dark**
  3. Light and **witness**
  4. Light for **all**
- So

**1. LIGHT AND LIFE**

- We left off last week seeing that Jesus was both **WITH** God and **WAS GOD**...

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- ... and we saw that it was **through** Jesus that all things were made...
- And now in v4 – look with me – *in him was **life**... and that **life** was the **light** of all mankind.*
- In Jesus was **life**...
- What does that **mean**?
- That he is the **origin** of life? – well yes – we just read that **through** him **all things** were **made**... ///
- ...but also the very **essence** of life....
- *I am the way, the truth and the **life*** (John 14:6)
- *I am the resurrection and the **life*** (John 11:25)
- **He is the creator of life, he is the source** of life, he is the **giver** of life, he is the **sustainer** of life....
- All life **comes** from Jesus... **created** life AND **abundant** life, AND **eternal** life... //
- He is the **origin** and **source** and **giver** and **essence** of life... //
- Did you notice there is a fascinating link between light and light... did you notice? *That **life** was the **light** of all...*
- Most living things need **light** to **live**.... If I leave my garbage bin on the **lawn** - even for a day or two... roll it away **eventually** – and what has happened to the grass **underneath**...? Its dead!
- **Light**... brings **life**...
- In Jesus' case - it's his very **life** which brings **light** to all **mankind**...
- Amidst the world's great **darkness**, the only way we can see a way **forward**... the only we can see **into** the **future**... our only **hope**, our only **answer**.... is **Jesus!** /
- And the **light** he brings is available for **all** – *that light was the light of all...* //
- How is this light seen **today** – 2000 years since he walked the planet? Well – **hold** that **thought** – we'll come **back** to that... //
- .... For now – having looked at light and **life**, let's look at

## **2. LIGHT AND DARK**

- v5...*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...*
- **The darkness** of this world cannot overcome the **light** which is Jesus Christ.
- As **dark** as the word's darkness **is**... and you don't need me to remind you just **how** dark our world currently is... it cannot **turn out**, **snuff out**, hide the **light**... which is Jesus Christ. //
- This is such good news...
- In the contest between **light** and **darkness**, **light** will always **win**...
- In our house in Noosa, we had a couple of internal rooms with no external windows – two **toilets** and the linen **press**...
- And if you go into those rooms in the **day** and fail to turn the light on...
- ...there is still **light** from the **rest** of the house that **sneaks in** – **under** the door and around the door **jam**...
- In fact if you wanted to create a **completely** dark room – like in the old days if you used to play with

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developing film and printing photographs – you would have to spend a decent amount of money treating the room to ensure that not **one speck** of white light **entered** the **room**... //

- **Darkness** cannot overcome **light**....! //
- **The darkness of this world cannot over come Jesus the light of this world.**
- And so it is, that in the darkness of this world in which we **live**... as **dark** as it is... that **darkness** will **never** be able to rise **up** and put **OUT** the light which is **from** the **Lord Jesus!** ///
- They **tried** //
- At the **cross** they tried //
- Remember it was the **middle** of the **day**... and there **darkness** came over the whole **land** as they crucified **Jesus**.... For **three** hours.... **Dark** because they were taking the **life** from him who is the **light** of the **world!!!**
- But on Easter Day – **light** and **life** burst from the **tomb** – as Jesus **conquered** the **dark** – the dark forces of **evil** – and rose **triumphantly** back to **life!!!**
- The **light** of Jesus **shines** in the **darkness**... and the **darkness** has, cannot, will not ever **overcome** it!!
- He is the light of the world and his light is **bright** and **brilliant** and **life-giving** and **attractive**...
- And it's **only** the life of Jesus which **lights** the **world** today! //

### **3. LIGHT AND WITNESS**

- Have a look with me – vv6-8 *There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.*
- Now John the Gospel writer, is not referring to **himself** – he's referring to **John** who the **other** gospels call John the **Baptist**... /
- And we read in the other gospels that his job was to **prepare** the way... prepare the way for the **coming** of **Jesus**.
- he always said that his ministry was about the one who was to **come**... John said Jesus **surpasses** him (v15)... that he wasn't worthy to untie Jesus' **sandal**; ... and when John sees him – points him and out and proclaims him as "behold the **lamb of God** who takes away the **sin of the world**..." // He was pointing away from himself to point to the Lord Jesus...
- that was his role - to **witness** to the **light** – to **prepare** people for the light – to **point** people to the light – to call people to **repentance** in the light of the light Jesus **brings**...
- The ultimate reason – *so that **through him** all might **believe!*** //
- Now John was a **unique** person at a **specific point of** time...
- However... we **ARE** all called on to as it were point to the light – to point to Jesus.
- Our **lives** are ought to point to Jesus... to reflect Jesus' light...
- The radical nature of our **generosity**, our **tolerance**, our **kindness**... our **servant heart**, our **patience**, our **thoughtfulness**... ought to **point to Jesus**
- **The words that come from our lips** ought to point to Jesus... your **conversation**, **priorities**, **plans**, **interests**, **hobbies**... should all point to Jesus...

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- ... for surely our passion – our prayer – our longing – .... Is also **THAT ALL MIGHT BELIEVE!** ////
- **IS** that what **YOU** want? // That all might believe?
- is it clear in your mind that those walking **apart** from Jesus **ARE** in the **dark**...? //
- and they will **remain** in the dark until they come to the **light**...?
- **YOU** may just be the means which by which they see the **light!** //... and emerge in repentance from their darkness... //
- *...he came as a witness to the light, to that through him everyone might believe!*
- That was John the **Baptist's** desire...
- It was **Jesus'** desire
- It is **God's** desire! – you remember the old words from Morning Prayer – *God desires that **none** should perish, but rather that they should turn from their wickedness and **live**...*
- [God] *wants **all people** to be saved and to come to a **knowledge** of the **truth**.<sup>5</sup> For there is **one** God and **one mediator** between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a **ransom** for **all people**.* 1 Tim 2:4-6
- See God wants all **people** to be **saved**... and sent his **Son** as a **mediator** – as a **ransom** so that that may be **possible**...
- Is it **YOUR** desire that all might **believe**? ///
- **Live** in such a way that you **witness** to the **light**.... which is Jesus that you **reflect** his light... that others see in your **good deeds**... the light of the Lord Jesus and **glorify** God...
- “You are the **light** of the world”, said Jesus... **BE** that **light** – **lit up** by Jesus **himself wonderfully at work** in you and **through** you!! ///
- Which brings us finally to

#### **4. LIGHT FOR ALL**

- v9 *The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world*
- that's what happened when Jesus entered the world...
- Christmas just a couple of weeks back... that is what we celebrated – that is what was happening...
- let's think about that for a moment...
- the **true light** of the world...
- ...the light which was in the **beginning**...
- ...the light which was **God-speaking**... God's word...
- **That** light // – was **stepping** into our **world**....
- We live in a **ladder-up** society...
- It's how the world **works**
- Everyone is seeking to climb the ladder of **power** or **success** or **career** or **influence** or **celebrity** or **bank balance** or **politics**....
- But **here** Jesus was coming **DOWN** the ladder...

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- Stepping **out** of the glory of heaven
- **Out** of his comfort zone as we would say
- **Out** of the presence of the Father
- Not clinging on to his position with the Father...
- Out of the **light** of the **glory** of **God**...
- ...and into the **darkness** of our **world**....
- **Yes... *the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world as Jesus took on human flesh.***
- That's a staggering **reality**....!! //
- John 8:12 Jesus said: *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in **darkness**, but will have the **light of life.***
- So I have two questions or challenges for you as I close.
- First – are **YOU** walking in the light? //
- Have you left the **darkness** of doing your **own** thing, living your life your **own** way, without **God** to come now into a relationship with God.
- Have you left the **darkness** of **rebellion**? The **darkness** of **fence sitting**? The **darkness** of **ignorance**? //
- Come to Jesus the light..
- Jesus came into the world as the **only** source of light in this world's **darkness** // **Come to him!!**
- Do you know the great sadness is as we read in John 3: *This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved **darkness** instead of **light** because their deeds were **evil**.<sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil **hates the light**, and will not come **into the light** for fear that their deeds will be **exposed**.<sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the **truth** comes into the **light**...* //
- I'm inviting you today, to come **into the light**... to **leave the dark**.... To put **aside** your **rebellion**... to stop running **your** life **your** own way – and to let God run it **his** way...
- I'd love to show you the **light**!! ///
- And my **second** question which I hinted at earlier... is how will people see this **light** today seeing that Jesus is no longer present **physically**?
- through **YOU**! //
- Jesus said to his disciples in Matthew 5 – you (plural) are the light of the world... and that we'd be **mad** to **hide** that light... //
- **We** must make a **difference**... //
- We must **shine out** – and **stand** out – as a **community** of God's people across **central and western NSW** – and as **individuals**...
- We must be **radically different from those around us who live in the dark**...
- Jesus didn't go the **cross** so we could have a more **comfortable** life...
- He went to the cross to **rescue** us from **evil** and **transform** us into his people who would make a **difference** in the **world** – so that all might **believe**!

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- As we love and serve our communities in **all sorts** of ways... then we will **shine** in the **darkness**... and so people **WILL** be **drawn** to Jesus the **light**... and they'll **leave** the **darkness**; they'll come into the **light** and live as **disciples** of the **Lord Jesus**....
- Friends – make sure you are living out a **radically different life of good deeds**... so that people see how **different** you are... people see the **light** which is the **Lord Jesus**.... people are **attracted** to the **light** which is the **Lord Jesus**... and so **glorify** our **Father** in **heaven**... //
- Friends – we live in a very dark world... and sometimes our own **personal** lives are very dark **indeed**... //
- But friends, light **shines** in the **darkness**..... Jesus the light shines in this world's darkness... and the **darkness** has not / will not / cannot **overcome** it...
- The **true light** that gives light to **everyone**, was **coming** into the **world**...
- **THAT's** what happened // when Jesus was **born**...

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*Father we thank you that in this often very dark world in which we live, Jesus is still the light of the world.*

*We thank you for your call upon us – on us as a community of your people, to now be your light in the world – to as it were – poke holes in this world's darkness. Help us please to that every day and all over the place... and in so many different ways, that somehow people will see in us, Jesus, the light of the world. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.*