

Message Three

The Word of God Being a Realm of Light in the Experience of God's Loving Seekers

MC Hymns 426

Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:5-7; Isa. 50:10-11; Psa. 36:9; 119:130, 105; 19:8b

- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- Isa 50:10 Who among you fears Jehovah; / Who hears the voice of His servant; / Who walks in darkness / And has no light? / Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, / And rely on his God.
- Isa 50:11 Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, / Who surround yourselves with firebrands, / Walk into the light of your fire / And into the firebrands which you have lit. / You will have this from My hand: / You will lie down in torment.
- Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
- Psa 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, / Imparting understanding to the simple.
- Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet / And a light to my path.
- Psa 19:8b ... The commandment of Jehovah is clear, / Enlightening the eyes;

I. The function of the Word is the function, or operation, of God Himself—1 Thes. 2:13; Phil. 2:13.

- 1 Thes 2:13 And because of this we also thank God unceasingly that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but even as it truly is, the word of God, which also operates in you who believe.
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

II. The divine light is the nature of God's expression; it is the source of the divine truth—1 John 1:5-6:

- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
- A. Light is God's shining, God's expression; when God is expressed, the nature of that expression is light—v. 5:
- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
1. To walk in the divine light is to live, move, act, and have our being in the divine light, which is God Himself—v. 7.
1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
 2. The shining of the divine light makes old things new—2:7-8.
1 John 2:7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you heard.
1 John 2:8 Yet again a new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.
 3. If we are under God's dispensing, we participate in God's nature as light and are constituted with this element of His nature—1:5; 2 Cor. 4:6.
1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. The divine light is the source of the divine truth—John 1:5, 9; 18:37:

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:9 This was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

John 18:37 Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

1. When the divine light shines upon us, it becomes the truth, which is the divine reality—8:12, 32.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

2. When the divine light shines, the divine things become real to us.

3. Because light is the source of truth, and truth is the issue of light, when we walk in the light, we practice the truth—1 John 1:6-7.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

III. Whenever we have no light, we should trust in the name of Jehovah and not kindle a fire and walk into the light of this fire—Isa. 50:10-11:

Isa 50:10 Who among you fears Jehovah; / Who hears the voice of His servant; / Who walks in darkness / And has no light? / Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, / And rely on his God.

Isa 50:11 Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, / Who surround yourselves with firebrands, / Walk into the light of your fire / And into the firebrands which you have lit. / You will have this from My hand: / You will lie down in torment.

A. Light comes from God alone, not from man—v. 10.

Isa 50:10 Who among you fears Jehovah; / Who hears the voice of His servant; / Who walks in darkness / And has no light? / Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, / And rely on his God.

B. Spiritual darkness cannot be removed by human fire, which never brings in genuine spiritual light; our own fire cannot be the source of spiritual light—v. 11:

Isa 50:11 Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, / Who surround yourselves with firebrands, / Walk into the light of your fire / And into the firebrands which you have lit. / You will have this from My hand: / You will lie down in torment.

1. A Christian cannot advance in the spiritual pathway by his own fire; he should trust in the name of Jehovah and rely on his God.

2. Spiritual light does not come from our own feelings or thoughts.

3. The more a person searches inwardly for light, the more he will not find light, because light is not there.

C. We should not replace God's light with our own light; rather, we should always receive light from God—1 John 1:5; John 8:12.

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

IV. In God's light we see light—Psa. 36:9:

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

A. Through God's light we see light and the true condition of things:

1. The first light in Psalm 36:9 is the enlightening light, and the second light denotes the

true nature of things.

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

2. **We see the true nature of anything only when we are in God's light—1 John 1:5-7:**

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

a. We must live in God's light before we can be one who sees.

b. Only those who live in God's light will see light and the true nature of things.

c. If a man is under God's light, he will discern the intrinsic nature of things.

B. **When we are in God's light, we see what God sees; this is seeing light in God's light—Psa. 36:9.**

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

V. God is light (1 John 1:5), and this light is consolidated in the Word; therefore, the Word of God is the embodiment of God as the divine light:

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

A. The Word is the consolidation of the divine light, so whenever we come to the Word, we should sense that we are in an atmosphere of light—Psa. 36:9.

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

B. If we come to the Word with a proper attitude, we will be in the light and under the light and not merely receive light—1 John 1:7.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

VI. In the experience of God's loving seekers, the Word of God is a realm of light—Psa. 36:9:

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

A. Because the Word is a realm of light, the opening of God's words gives light—119:130.

Psa 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, / Imparting understanding to the simple.

B. In the Word as a realm of light, God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path—v. 105.

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet / And a light to my path.

C. In the Word as a realm of light, the Word enlightens our eyes—19:8b.

Psa 19:8b ... The commandment of Jehovah is clear, / Enlightening the eyes;

D. In the Word as a realm of light, the prophetic word is a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts—2 Pet. 1:19.

2 Pet 1:19 And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

E. In the Word as a realm of light, we are constituted with the truth as the shining of light—John 8:12, 32.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

F. In the Word as a realm of light, we walk in the light as God is in the light, and we have fellowship with one another—1 John 1:7, 5.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- G. In the Word as a realm of light, we become light in the Lord—Eph. 5:8a; John 8:12; Matt. 5:14a.**
- Eph 5:8a For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; ...
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- Matt 5:14a You are the light of the world. ...
- H. In the Word as a realm of light, we walk as children of light and have the fruit of the light in goodness, righteousness, and truth—Eph. 5:8b-9:**
- Eph 5:8b ... walk as children of light
- Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
- 1. As God is light, so we, the children of God, are children of light—1 John 1:5; John 1:12-13; 12:36.**
- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
- John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- John 12:36 While you have the light, believe into the light, so that you may become sons of light. Jesus said these things, and He went away and was hidden from them.
- 2. The fruit of the light is related to the Triune God:**
- a. Goodness denotes God the Father, for the only One who is good is God—Matt. 19:17.**
- Matt 19:17 And He said to him, Why do you ask Me concerning what is good? There is only One who is good. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.
- b. Righteousness denotes God the Son, for Christ came to accomplish God's purpose according to God's righteous procedure—Rom. 5:17-18, 21.**
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- c. Truth denotes God the Spirit, for He is the Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 1 John 5:6c.**
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- 1 John 5:6c ... and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- I. In the Word as a realm of light, we experience the kingdom as the shining of the reality of the Lord Jesus—Mark 9:1; Matt. 16:28—17:2:**
- Mark 9:1 And He said to them, Truly I say to you, there are some of those standing here who shall by no means taste death until they see the kingdom of God having come in power.
- Matt 16:28 Truly I say to you, There are some of those standing here who shall by no means taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.
- Matt 17:1 And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain privately.
- Matt 17:2 And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.

1. The shining forth of the Lord Jesus on the mountaintop was the coming of the kingdom—Mark 9:1; Matt. 17:2.
 Mark 9:1 And He said to them, Truly I say to you, there are some of those standing here who shall by no means taste death until they see the kingdom of God having come in power.
 Matt 17:2 And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.
2. The kingdom is the Lord Jesus shining over us, and the kingdom is the spreading of the Lord Jesus by shining over us.

VII. Whether or not the Word is a realm of light to us in our experience depends on our attitude and condition in coming to the Word:

- A. We need to humble ourselves, having no confidence in ourselves but looking to the Lord for mercy—Isa. 57:15; 66:2.
 Isa 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One, / Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: / I will dwell in the high and holy place, / And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, / To revive the spirit of the lowly / And to revive the heart of the contrite.
 Isa 66:2 For all these things My hand has made, / And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.
- B. All the chambers of our being should be open to receive the Lord's shining—Prov. 20:27.
 Prov 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, / Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.
- C. We need to deal with our heart and have a proper heart toward the Lord—Luke 8:15:
 Luke 8:15 But that which is in the good earth, these are those who in a noble and good heart hear the word and hold it fast and bear fruit with endurance.
 1. Whenever we come to the Word, we should exercise our heart, seek the Lord with all our heart, and not have a divided heart—Jer. 29:13; 24:7.
 Jer 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me if you search for Me with all your heart;
 Jer 24:7 And I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am Jehovah; and they will be My people, and I will be their God; for they will return to Me with their whole heart.
 2. If we would receive light through the Word, we need to deal with the hindrances and frustrations in our heart—Luke 8:13-15; Matt. 18:35.
 Luke 8:13 And those on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; yet these have no root, who believe only for a while, and in time of trial they draw back.
 Luke 8:14 And that which fell into the thorns, these are those who heard and, going away, are utterly choked by anxieties and riches and pleasures of this life, and do not bring any fruit to maturity.
 Luke 8:15 But that which is in the good earth, these are those who in a noble and good heart hear the word and hold it fast and bear fruit with endurance.
 Matt 18:35 So also will My heavenly Father do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from your hearts.
- D. Our eye must be single so that our whole body will be full of light—6:22-24:
 Matt 6:22 The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light;
 Matt 6:23 But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
 Matt 6:24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
 1. If we store up our treasure both in heaven and on earth, our spiritual vision will be blurred—vv. 23-24.
 Matt 6:23 But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
 Matt 6:24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he

will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

2. **If we focus our eyes on one thing, our vision will be single, and our whole body will be full of light—vv. 33, 22; Luke 11:34-36.**

Matt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matt 6:22 The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light;

Luke 11:34 The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is dark.

Luke 11:35 Watch out therefore that the light which is in you is not darkness.

Luke 11:36 If therefore your whole body is full of light and does not have any dark part, the whole will be full of light as when the lamp with its rays illuminates you.

- E. **We should not manufacture light; instead, we should rely on the Lord to enlighten us—Isa. 50:10-11:**

Isa 50:10 Who among you fears Jehovah; / Who hears the voice of His servant; / Who walks in darkness / And has no light? / Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, / And rely on his God.

Isa 50:11 Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, / Who surround yourselves with firebrands, / Walk into the light of your fire / And into the firebrands which you have lit. / You will have this from My hand: / You will lie down in torment.

1. **If we gird ourselves with self-made light, though we may walk into the light of our own fire for a while, in the end we will lie down in torment—v. 11b.**

Isa 50:11b ... You will have this from My hand: / You will lie down in torment.

2. **Only God is light, only God is the source of light, and only in the light of God can we see light—Psa. 36:9.**

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

- F. **We need to be on the third story of the ark, under the skylight, the unique window, receiving light from the Lord through the ministry of the age—Gen. 6:16:**

Gen 6:16 You shall make an opening for light for the ark, and you shall finish it up to a cubit from the top; and you shall put the entrance of the ark in its side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third stories.

1. **In God's economy and in God's church there is only one window, one revelation, and one vision.**

2. **We need to serve God according to the vision of the age, which comes through the ministry of the age.**

- G. **If we are pure in heart in seeking God, we will see God, who is light—Matt. 5:8; 1 John 1:5.**

Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.