

Message Six  
**The Triune God in Christ**  
**Being Life to Us by Shining in Our Hearts**

RK *Hymns*: 1191, 13

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 4:4, 6-7; 3:18; Matt. 17:2;  
Eph. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:4a, 5b; 21:23

- 2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.
- 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.
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- 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.
- Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light
- Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
- Rev 22:4a And they will see His face, ...
- Rev 22:5b ... for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.
- Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

**I. “In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them”—2 Cor. 4:4:**

- A. Satan, the god of this age, has blinded the thoughts and the minds of the unbelievers so that the illumination of the gospel of Christ’s glory might not shine in their hearts:
1. Those who are blinded or veiled think that they do not worship anything; actually, their god is Satan.
  2. Atheists worship Satan without knowing what they are doing.
  3. Nearly all people today have been blinded by the god of this age.
- B. Christ as the image of God is the effulgence of His glory; hence, the gospel of Christ is the gospel of His glory that illuminates, radiates, and shines in our hearts—Heb. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:6.
- Heb 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
- 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.
- C. The gospel of the glory of Christ is the gospel of the glory of the blessed God—1 Tim. 1:11.
- 1 Tim 1:11 According to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I was entrusted.
- D. By dispensing God’s life and nature in Christ into God’s chosen people, the gospel of the glory of Christ shines forth God’s glory, in which God is blessed among His people—Heb. 1:3; Eph. 1:3, 6, 12, 14.
- Heb 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;  
 Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,  
 Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession,  
 to the praise of His glory.

## II. “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”—2 Cor. 4:6:

- A. God’s shining in our hearts results in the illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, that is, in the enlightenment that causes us to know the glory of God in the gospel of Christ—vv. 4, 6.
- 2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.
- 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 illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God is in the face of Jesus Christ; this indicates that the gospel of the glory of Christ is a lovely person on whose face we can see the glory of God—vv. 4, 6; Matt. 17:2.
- 2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.
- 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.
- 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.
- C. The glory of God manifested in the face of Jesus Christ is the God of glory expressed through Jesus Christ, who is the effulgence of the glory of God; to know Him is to know the God of glory—Acts 7:2; Heb. 1:3.
- Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,
- Heb 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
- D. The more God shines in our hearts, the more we will shine on others so that they may have the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, that is, the knowledge of Christ, who expresses and declares God; the gospel of the glory of Christ first shines into us, and then it shines out from within us—John 1:18; Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15.
- John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
- Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.
- Phil 2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

## III. “We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us”—2 Cor. 4:7:

- A. Through the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, the Christ of glory as the excellent treasure is received by the believers; now the shining reality of Christ, the embodiment and expression of the Triune God, is the treasure within us—vv. 6-7:
- 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.

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

1. God's shining, which is God's dispensing, in our hearts brings into us a treasure, the all-inclusive Christ, who is the embodiment of the Triune God as the life-giving Spirit to be our life and everything—vv. 4, 6-7; Col. 2:9; 3:4, 11; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

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.

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2. This priceless treasure, the indwelling Christ, is the divine source of the supply for the Christian life—Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor. 13:5; 4:7.

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are disapproved?

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

B. This priceless treasure has made us, the earthen vessels, ministers of the new covenant with a priceless ministry; this is by the divine power in resurrection; the excellency of this power is surely of God and not out of us—3:6; 1:9; 4:7.

2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

C. Those who receive the gospel of glory through our shining will have Christ as the precious treasure dispensed into them; then, like us, they will be earthen vessels containing this priceless treasure—vv. 4, 6-7.

2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

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.

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

#### **IV. “We all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit”—3:18:**

A. To behold the glory of the Lord is to see the Lord ourselves; to reflect the glory of the Lord is to enable others to see Him through us.

B. The glory of the Lord is the glory of the resurrected and ascended Christ, who is the life-giving Spirit dwelling in us to make Himself and all that He has accomplished, attained,

and obtained real to us so that we may be one with Him and be transformed into the same image as the Lord from glory to glory; in this way He is making us the same as He is— Luke 24:46; Heb. 2:9; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29.

Luke 24:46 And He said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise up from the dead on the third day,

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

C. This is an ongoing process in life in resurrection—2 Cor. 3:18.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

## V. “You were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light”—Eph. 5:8:

A. As God is light, so we, the children of God, are children of light—1 John 1:5; Eph. 5:8; John 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.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light

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.

B. We are not only children of light—we are light itself; we are light because we are one with God in the Lord—Matt. 5:14; 1 John 1:5.

Matt 5:14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.

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.

C. When we are in the light, we are outside the realm of right and wrong—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.

D. If we walk as children of light, we will bear the fruit described in Ephesians 5:9:

Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

1. The fruit of the light must be good in nature, righteous in procedure, and real in expression, that God may be expressed as the reality of our daily walk.

2. The fruit of the light in goodness, righteousness, and truth is related to the Triune God:

a. God the Father as goodness is the nature of the fruit of the light; therefore, goodness in verse 9 refers to God the Father—Matt. 19:17.

Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

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 refers to 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, the expression of the fruit of the light, refers to God the Spirit, for He is the Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 16:13.

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.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

## **VI. “They will see His face...The Lord God will shine upon them”—Rev. 22:4a, 5b:**

- A. To see the face of God and of the Lamb will be a blessing of the Triune God enjoyed by God’s redeemed in eternity—v. 4a.

Rev 22:4a And they will see His face, ...

- B. God Himself in the Lamb will shine on us, and we will live forever under His glorious illumination—v. 5b; 21:23.

Rev 22:5b ... for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.