

the  Venues
Go Deep

Turn on the Light
“You Light Up My Life”
July 19, 2015

What is your most vivid memory as a child in a dark place (cave, tunnel, power blackout)?

Read John 1:5-9 and John 8:12
What is Jesus claiming in 8:12?

What other words of identification do you see in these verses?

1. Truth is truth wherever we find it.

What is your response to the above statement?

An 8th century BC religion called Zoroastrianism uses the same “light vs dark” motif as John.

Read Genesis 1:1-4 and John 1:1.

A Greek myth of creation goes like this: *“In the beginning there was only Chaos. Then out of the void appeared Erebus, the unknowable place where death dwells, and Night. All else was empty, silent, endless, dark. Then, Love was born bringing along the beginning of order. From Love emerged Light, followed by Gaea, the earth.”*

The similarities are striking.

Why would John use language from Judaism and Greek mythology in his account?

What do you think of the following insights on this idea?

“All truth is God’s truth.” St. Augustine

“For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, not to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it.” Thomas Jefferson

“Follow the evidence where it leads and question everything.” Neil deGrasse.

“An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” Proverbs 18:15

What do you know about other religions that are in common with Christianity?

2. Light, Life and Love Win.

John likes the Light, Life and Love trio.

Read 1 John 2:8-10.

Compare different versions of John 1:5. Some translate the word *katelaben* as “overcome” and some translate the word “understand or comprehend.”

How does each version help us understand the power of light over darkness?

Take a look at some of the things Jesus said that are hard to comprehend?

“If you’d like to be first, go be last. Choose the worst seat. Become a servant.”

“Love your enemies.”

“Love others the way I love you.”

“Seek first the kingdom of God.”

“Treat others the way you want them to treat you.”

Read Matthew 7:13-14

How would you apply this verse to the “hard to comprehend” statements made by Jesus?

3. Jesus – The Real Thing

Read John 1:9

How is the light described? What does the light do? Who does the light do it to?

Did you see the “Mad Men” finale? What did you think about the “I’d like to teach the world to sing” Coke commercial from 1971?

Here are the lyrics:

***I’d like to buy the world a home,
And furnish it with love
Grow apple trees and honey bees
And snow white turtle doves.***

***I’d like to teach the world to sing
In perfect harmony
I’d like to buy the world a Coke
And keep it company***

***That’s the real thing.
What the world wants today.
Coca-Cola
Is the real thing.***

How does that song fit Jesus? How does that song fit Jesus’ mission of Luke 4:14-20

Read Hebrews 1:1-3

What does this verse fit with John 1:9?

*What is your take away from this teaching?
How does it make you live more like Christ?*