

JESUS THE LIGHT UNIVERSAL
JNO. I:9.

Darkness is the absence of light. It is a medium through which thieves and thugs travel and a condition that men love rather than light when their deeds are evil. To dispel darkness from our rooms, our streets, stores, banks, and churches we go to enormous expense. In darkness we stumble, we are hindered in our progress toward higher goals, we pass by beaties and never see the. No wonder we prefer light. We get light from fuels water powers etc. either directly or indirectly. But Jesus is the greatest light known to men. That Light cometh from Life. "In Him was Life and the Life was the Light of men." Happy is that man, church, home, community, or nation which has passed over into it or them that Life that generates Light.

In the Scripture read to day reference is made to the wonderful background of this text. In our thinking back and looking back we go over in our minds The relationship between God and man.

1. God made man. Man had nothing to do with it. God was the moving motive, the the creative power, and the instrumentality by which man came into the world. He is affectionately called Father.

2. God has duties toward man and performs them. We speak much about man's duty to God and perhaps because we are so prone to leave undone our obligations to God. Since God made us He assumes the duty of revealing Himself to us. Since we are honored by our very creation it is our duty to receive the Revelation which God tries to get to us.

3. God has the faculty of revelation. He has only been seen in Jesus Christ plainly. He at the same time seeks to reveal Himself to all mankind. This is no recent thing but from the beginning of the race this has been going on. Jesus is the Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. This is demonstrated as follows:

a. Heathen religions. We have no right to criticise heathen religions. Because they are built up out of longings of earnest hearts, impressions from the Holy Spirit, and experiences as rich as people can have who do not know of the physical revelation of God in Christ Jesus and who have not had the Bible nor tradition since thousands of years ago their ancestry chose to depart from the way God was leading the descendants of Adam.

The holiest verse of the Hindoo religion is as follows: Let us adore the supremacy of that divine Sun, the Godhead Who illuminates all; Who re-creates all; from Whom all proceed; to Whom all must return; Whom we invoke to direct our understanding aright in our process toward His Holy seat." Matters not when that was written Jesus must have given the impression.

Paul found many altars among the Greeks. Altars to many gods. But there was one altar to the "Unknown God." Where did that faint ray telling of the great God come from? Why does Paul say that they are a law unto themselves, that there is a law written upon their hearts? Where did they get it? John answers, "Jesus was the true Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

b. Hebrews in their religion. We speak of the Jews as the chosen people. It might be interesting to think about whether God chose the Jews or did the Jews choose God. The race came on down and the ancestry back

#2 JESUS THE UNIVERSAL LIGHT.

OF THE Jews chose the God they heard about in the fire side talk that was handed down as perfectly as masienry about creation and and God's dealing with man. It came down through Shem, Japheth, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and so on. But all the time there were others breaking off who became the gentiles. These did not choose to keep up these oral stories. The Jews developed in their capacities for receiving the impressions from God. That is some of them did. The race did not for many times while the one whom God spoke to was trying to lead the Jews they would fall back to idol worship. No doubt while the Jews were at their best God still loved human wonderers and was writing on the tables of their hearts longings for the living God.

Now when Christianity is at a high point God does not dispise the Japs, Indians, Chinese, or any one else. Nor did He ever do so. I am not worrying about whom God has chosen as His people. Not one person less than the whole human race is God trying to bring into His fold. The thing that concerns us is whether or not we are a choosing people choosing Him rather than other gods.

When Jesus came some thing strange happened. That is when the perfect Revelation of God came the Jews ceased to choose God's highest Revelation. But the gentiles who had been only in the twilight of Jesus so to speak, having no Bible, tradition, nor prophet yet trying to feel after the source from whence the twilight came began readily to accept Jesus. We would not say that we are the Chosen people but the choosing people for God would choose that all people do as we are doing.

Although the Jews were inspired, that is some of them, yet without Jesus in their religious system had strange ideas about God. Many felt that it was God's will to sell other peoples poisoned meat, and the psalmist said in P.S. 137:9, "Happy is he that taketh and dasheth the little ones (of Babylon) against the stones."

We are to rejoice and to proclaim it to day that God is not the Jupiter of the Romans, nor the Jehovah of the Jews but the loving Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and that through Jesus is trying to get to every man. Oh that we who are able to say "Eureka", we who live in the noon day splendor of the Light of Jesus may call the world to Him. Oh that we may proclaim Him to the world that people may cease stumbling, and cease passing by the beauties that this blessed Light reveals. All the broken rays need to be gathered together into one great Spot Light that will soon shine into every heart around the world. May we not sing with Whittier?

I GATHER UP THE SCATTERED RAYS OF WISDOM IN EARLY DAYS
FAINT GLEAMS AND BROKEN LIKE THE LIGHT OF METEORS IN NIGHT
BETRAYING TO THE DARKLING EARTH THE UNSEEN SUN THAT GAVE THEM BIRTH
I LISTEN TO THE SYBIL'S CHANT THE VOICE OF THE PRIEST AND HIERPHANT
I KNOW WHAT INDIAN KRISHNA SAITH AND WHAT OF LIFE AND WHAT OF DEATH
THE DAIMON TAUGHT TO SOCRATES AND WHAT BENEATH HIS GARDEN TREES
SLOW PACING WITH DREAMLIKE TREAD THE SOLEMN THOUGHTED PLATO SAID
NOR LACK I TOKENS GREAT AND SMALL OF GOD'S CLEAR LIGHT IN EACH AND ALL
WHILE HOLDING IN MORE DEAR REGARD THE SCROLL OF HEBREW SEER AND BARD
THE STARRY PAGES PROMISE LIT WITH CHRIST'S EVANGEL OVERWIT
THY MIRACLE OF LIFE AND DEATH O HOLY ONE OF NAZARETH.