



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## JOHN 1:1-5; EPHESIANS 5:1-2, 6-14

### LESSON: THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS — December 24, 2023

#### INTRODUCTION:

The fourth Book of the Gospels in the New Testament is written by the Apostle John, not John the Baptist. He is the son of a fisherman named Zebedee and brother of James (called a "*Son of Thunder*"). He was an eyewitness to the events he describes. John makes it clear that Jesus is not just a man; He is the eternal "*Son of God*." He gives the true meaning of who God really is. John knew the "Man" Jesus intimately. He ate in His presence, slept out in the open air as one of His disciples, had opportunity to touch and handle the Son of God; he heard Him speak and followed Him.

The first three Gospels majored on describing events in the life of Christ:

- <sup>1</sup>Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus.
- Mark began with the ministry of John the Baptist.
- Luke starts with the story of Jesus' birth.

But John emphasized the meaning of (*His existence*). In his first two verses John transports us to eternity past—before creation, before man—before the existence of time itself.

#### LESSON:

#### I. JOHN 1:1-5

In The Beginning

**1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

The first thing: John starts his book with three truths to explain Jesus' deity:

- 1) in the beginning was the Word (the Word already existed),
- 2) the Word was with God (the Word existed with God),
- 3) and the Word was God (the Word was God).

It can't get any plainer than that according to John. So, in the Book of Genesis 1— "In the BEGINNING God created the heaven and earth" points to the Word being there. The beginning begins with the Word already in existence.

**1:1b ...the Word was with God.** The Word being a Person is not outside of Him, but in Him. He existed at the same time. This "*Word's*" relation to the Godhead is eternally woven in Him. He was with God from the beginning.

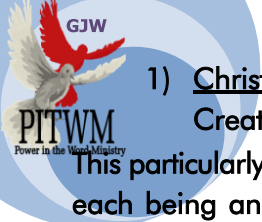
**1:1c ...and the Word was God.** John concludes the verse with an emphatic statement that the "*Word*" was completely God. This shows the Deity of God. Jesus Himself said, "*The Father and I are ONE; he that has seen ME has seen THE FATHER.*" (John 10:20; 14:9). The Triune Godhead, three in One— God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are One. Jesus Christ is the Word! The Word was God!

**1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.** Christ, the Word existed in the beginning, long before being born of Mary. He was Self-existent— He was eternally with God existing in the beginning and owing His existence to no one.

**1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.redlandbaptist.org/sermons/sermon20100606.php>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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1) Christ is the Creator — This verse establishes Christ as the subject of Creation and not the object of Creation. He was the Creator not the created.

This particularly shows that "**All things**" (*panta*) were made by Him; every detail of Creation, each element and thing, each being and person—whether angelic or human—has come into being by Christ. The words "**were made**" (*egeneto*) means, *came into being or became*. **Note**, this is saying that nothing was existing—no substance, no matter whatsoever. God did not take something outside of Himself; something less than perfect (meaning evil) and create the world. He took nothing; created every single thing out of "*nothing*" (*ex nihilo*) and spoke it into existence.

THE FATHER IS THE ADMINISTRATOR—OVERSEER. He speaks the thing. CHRIST IS THE CREATOR OPERATING IN THE SPOKEN WORD. THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS THE DELIVERY.

In Genesis we can see the operation of the Trinity at work. The earth was without form, and void (the Word was there); and darkness was upon the face of the deep (the Word was there); And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (the Spirit was there). And God said. Whatever was created, the Word was there. Whatever God spoke, the Word created it.

The words "not anything" (*oude hen*) means not even one thing, not a single thing, not even a detail was made apart from Him. Therefore, *without Him nothing was made*. John 4:24 says *God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth*. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are ONE having the same eternal goal of operation, manifesting as will.

## FOCUS ILLUSTRATION 1

The picture of the SUN is the FATHER—the light from the SUN is the SON—and the heat from the SUN is the HOLY SPIRIT. All are ONE, for you see one SUN operating toward the same goal.

## OPERATING ILLUSTRATION 1

- The ARCHITECT conceives the plan on paper.
- The BUILDER executes / constructs and makes it a reality.
- The ENGINEER is focused on one specific area of a project whether structural or mechanical of the delivery process.

## OPERATING ILLUSTRATION 2

- The ADMINISTRATOR oversees and governs. That's the Person of the FATHER. He speaks a thing into existence. He sends forth the WORD. Psalm 107:20 says *He sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction*
- The CREATOR produces and makes. That's the Person of the SON. He creates what the Father speaks. *For the word of God is alive and active (it's quick and powerful). Sharper than any double-edged (or two-edged) sword, it penetrates even to dividing (asunder) soul and spirit, joints and marrow; (a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart) it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart Heb.4:12.*
- The MANIFESTOR reveals and displays. That's the Person of the HOLY SPIRIT. His POWER manifests that spoken Word causing change from the inside out, causing a stirring in the atmosphere. John 16:13-15 *13Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* John 6:63 says *"It is the Spirit that quickened, the flesh profit nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."*

The Father said *Let there be light: and there was light*. Christ Jesus, the Word created the Light. The power of the Holy Spirit reflects that light. They all are together ensuring that the integrity of the design is maintained. THE THREE IN ONE OPERATING AS ONE. That's the HOLY TRINITY seen but unseen!

Col.1:15-16 *15Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things*





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created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: Whatever was needed the Word created it.

- Man needed a Savior, God came down.
- Man needed the Light of the world, God came down.
- Man needed the Bread of Life, God came down.
- Man needed a Restorer of the Breach, God came down.
- Man needed a Shepherd, God came down.
- Man needed Hope, God came down.
- Man needed Salvation, God came down.

## 1:4 In him was life; —

2) Christ is Life — In Him was life because All things were made by Him; existed and have their being (their life) in Him. He gave life to everything created. Life is His quality, purpose, and fulfillment, and the distinct thing about life is that He is eternal; He lasts forever, and if He, so do we.

## 1:4b ...and the life was the light of men.

3) Christ is the light of men — Our spirits come alive. If a person receives Jesus, this Light he has is eternal life. He lives in us now by means of the Holy Spirit. He is the "light" both physical and spiritual. This light gives everything for His power to be. This reminds me of the illustration of the moon. The moon does not shed any light of its own. The moon gets its light from the sun. The moon reflects the sun's light. We reflect the light of Jesus! This relation pertains to man being in Christ. Jesus is the way to life; He is the truth of life; and He is the very substance of life!

**1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**— Since man had brought darkness into the world (by sin), the life of Christ was the light of man, the beam that showed man the way, the truth, and the life. Christ is the answer to darkness because His Light manifests and illuminates. The verb "shineth" (*Gr phainō*) is the Greek present tense. "Present" because Christ continues to shine as the Light. The "darkness" referred to the unbelief and sin of mankind. The darkness could not grasp, comprehend, put out or seize with hostile intent what Christ delivers. This life in Christ delivers us from the darkness of sin, for darkness was not able to put out the Light.

## II. EPHESIANS 5:1-2, 6-7

**5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;**— Just imagine, the great pattern for the believer is God Himself. The believer is to first become a follower of the Person of God. The idea is of commitment, attaching oneself to God; surrendering to Him, and having devotion; bearing allegiance to, being attentive to, which are all apart of following after God. We're able to grow in the likeness of God's image as His dear children causing us to resemble who we're following, for the focus has to be on God.

**5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.** Our walk is our lifestyle; what we practice. Christ is our greatest example as He showed tremendous love in following His Father, and in giving Himself to the cross. This was His offering of love; His sacrifice was of a sweet smelling (smell) savour unto God. The idea of sacrifice to the Jewish and pagan mind of that day was the idea of a life given in another's place. And that's what Christ did for us. This gives a higher meaning to the death of Christ than just meeting our need. In giving Himself as an offering to God, Christ honored and glorified God. God had been terribly dishonored by the first man, Adam, and by all those who followed after him. That would not happen with His Son, Jesus Christ! **The point is: the believer is to walk in love, just as Christ.** There is to be no limit to the offering and sacrifice of our lives to God and to men. God's love is an acting love.

### NOT A PART OF THE LESSON (5:3-5)—

<sup>2</sup>If we are going to walk in love we must abstain from evil practices (5: 3). He warns us against the sexual sins of fornication which were so prevalent in that day and still is today. Then he lists covetousness which is only a different expression of the same basic sin which is an uncontrolled appetite. People who have sinful appetites usually also have sinful speech. Warren Wiersbe says, "two indications of a person's character are what makes him laugh and

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/ephesians-51/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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*what makes him weep."* This means in their conversation that is offensive to Christian decency, and they make light of the sin. The gift of wit is a blessing, but attached to a sinful mind, it becomes a curse. Don't use dirty or foolish or filthy words. Instead, say how thankful you are (5: 4). At the time Paul was writing this, there were false Christians who argued that believers could live in sin and get away with it. He makes it clear that people who deliberately live in sin will not share in God's kingdom (5: 5). These warnings deal with the habitual practice of sin and not a one-time act such as David.

**5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.** There are deceivers walking all around us. There are people who will tell us...

- sex is the normal and natural thing for man—that a one-time affair will not hurt—that it is acceptable and will not harm us. It's innocent pleasure; it's my weakness, and don't forget, others do it, nothing happened to them. A Lie; Not True! Sex is for the marriage bed between husband (male) and wife (female).
- securing possessions is normal behavior and banking and storing up is acceptable. It builds position, ego, and self-image; getting to get. A Lie; Not True! Worldly treasures are temporary; Heavenly treasures are eternal!

These people love to twist the truth, justify wrong doing, and assure us that God is too kind to do anything to us. These would be vain hopeless, worthless, empty, and misleading words. **"Stop"** (a Greek present imperative) letting anyone (false teachers) trick, con, or misinform you with groundless arguments of the character and consequences of sins mentioned from vv.3-5. For sin will reach its highest peak when we will call evil good and good evil (Is.5:20). The wrath of God is real and will surely come upon the children of disobedience. The Greek present tense implies its certainty and its imminence. These are they who selfishly and fleshly abandon all moral and religious restraints.

**5:7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them. Stop being a partaker with the children of disobedience.** By separating oneself from the unclean, you grow closer to God. Darkness and light do not mix. Separation is important because...

- close association influences our lives and pull us into evil.
- we can only impact the world for God if our Christian lives are real and strikingly different.

However, in separating we are to avoid two things:

- I. We must not think that separation from sin means isolation from people. The salt must come out of the shaker to do its work; being in the world but not of it.
- II. We must not become self-righteous, contrasting ourselves with the sinners' outside, as the Pharisees did (Lk.18:9-14). We have to remember that we are still sinners saved by grace, and that we need God's patience daily. A self-righteous, judgmental attitude will kill our ability to reach people for Christ.

## III. EPHESIANS 5:8-14

**5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:—** Paul had to remind them that they used to be in darkness, but are now in unison with Him who is light. Darkness and light represent evil and good. Darkness meant they were at a time ignorant of God's Word. They had not come into the Light of knowing Jesus Christ and what He requires. It describes the character of the life of the unconverted as void of truth and virtue in intellectual and moral matters. The realm of darkness is presided by the "power of darkness." Apart from God is darkness and no man knows the truth. But now the people have come into the light of the Lord, walking as children of light. That means the light has been immersed into our very nature, and we are the embodiment of light itself; in unison with Him who is Light. Truth has been enlightened within the believer. We are to walk in, and be possessed by and radiating that Light.

**5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)**— We see the light bears all good things, like the fruit of the Spirit. This speaks of that which is produced by walking in the light. A life that will illuminate light will give off three things in this verse.

1. Goodness is love in action; moral excellence, benevolence in thought, word, and deed.





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2. Righteousness is rightness of character before God and rightness of actions before men; moral rectitude, integrity, and rightness as God sees it and in relation to man.
3. Truth— moral reality, honesty, sincerity, and straightforwardness, as opposed to all that is false. Fruit grows in a natural way, for it is its nature to grow when in the Light of the Lord.

**5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.** <sup>3</sup>The desire of a true Christian is to please God in all that they do, and all that they are. When the Holy Spirit is guiding, all our fruit would be pleasing to God. As we walk in the light of the truth, the knowledge of the Lord's Will becomes clear. Paul also states that after presenting ourselves as living sacrifices... "*...we prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect Will of God*" (Rom.12:1, 2). Everything the believer does is to be "unto the Lord."

**5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,—** Paul's instruction is plain and direct. Christians are to faithfully live in righteousness and purity and have nothing at all to do with the evil ways and works of Satan. These works of darkness yield no profit or reward. Darkness suggests actions and habits characteristic to a life of sin. And sin destroys the fruit of those living in the light.

**5:11b ...but rather reprove them.** Our task is to live and reflect so much light that all the works of darkness around us are exposed and expelled. One's life reproveth (*exposes, rebukes, and convicts*) people of their sins and dark works. Remember, when light appears, the darkness is always extinguished in a room. But if the light leaves or is turned off, the darkness reappears. The right kind of fruit we bear will bring the sin to light to expose, rebuke, and convict it.

**5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.** Many have done evil by exciting improper feelings, and then to speak of it would be offensive and shameful. These references may be to the vices which were secretly practiced in those days or even now. In the days of our parents or grandparents certain things were not discussed in front of children or mixed company. Certain words were not even said in front of our elders. You watched what you said because it brought shame to even say those things. But today, explicit words and images pour out into our homes and through the airways. Just because it comes forth, it does not have to come forth from our mouths. Therefore, Christians are not to have anything to do with the works of darkness. He must not even dabble in or talk about the things others have done secretly. It brings shame even to mention those evil things. The description creates polluting images before the imagination. If you know of someone else's secret sin, it doesn't warrant you to speak of it, but we are to show the grace that God shows.

**5:13 But all things that are reproveth are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.** Light reveals and converts everything it touches. It makes things clear. The wicked hide their worst deeds in the dark, but the righteous show up the deeds of darkness for what they are. That is one reason Christians are resented by many unbelievers. Even if we said nothing, our lives are suppose to manifest light on the lives of the wicked. Lives are to be converted and changed by the light. So long as evil is done in secret, it thrives, but when it is dragged out of the dark corners and closed rooms into the light, it dies.

**5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.** The unbelieving sinner is like someone asleep who doesn't understand what is happening. In his sins he is spiritually dead, but he arises to life as he comes into Christ. Light awakens the sleeping, those who are spiritually dead. Remember this passage is written to believers. Too many professing believers are passing through life just like unbelievers—asleep—living in the darkness of spiritual sleep and spiritual death—fellowshipping with and too often participating in the works of darkness. We get lethargic and unconcerned.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/ephesians/09.html>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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Awake—come out of your sleep. Arise—come up from lifeless death. And Christ shall give light. He showed proof to us by His resurrection that there is a God, and He has victory over death!

## SUMMARY:

<sup>4</sup>The plainest reason why the Son of God is called the Word, seems to be, that as our words explain our minds to others, so was the Son of God sent in order to reveal His Father's mind to the world. What the evangelist says of Christ proves that He is God. He asserts, His existence in the beginning; His coexistence with the Father. The Word was with God. All things were made by Him, and not as an instrument. Without Him was not any thing made that was made, from the highest angel to the mere worm. This shows how well qualified He was for the work of our redemption and salvation. This eternal Word, this true Light shines, but the darkness comprehends it not (**John 1:1-5**).

<sup>5</sup>Paul continues his discussion on the conduct of believers. He says that each Christian should be an imitator of God because he is a child of God (5:1). Just as children imitate their parents, so should a believer imitate God. This should begin by walking in Christ-like love (5:2). Jesus' love was shown as He gave Himself as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling perfume. Let us be imitators of God's love (**Ephesians 5:1-2**).

Don't let anyone trick you with foolish talk because the anger of God punishes the children of disobedience (**5:6**).  
<sup>6</sup>Having passed from darkness to light in coming to Christ, we should also "walk as children of light" (**5:7**). This includes producing the fruit of the Spirit such as goodness, righteousness and truth, thereby demonstrating what is acceptable to the Lord, for they used to be in darkness, but now are in unison with the Lord who is Light (**5:8-10**). We cannot participate in the shameful works of darkness, but instead must expose them (**5:11-12**). Lives are to be converted and changed by the light. Then God says Wake up sleeper, arise from the dead, Christ shall give light. He has victory over death (**5:13-14**) (**Ephesians 5:6-14**).

## APPLICATION:

Be the light that God is calling for in a world of darkness. As we are being a light, we are being examples imitating the One who lives within us. The Word and the Light go together. As we use the Word of God, the light flows from us.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.christnotes.org/commentary.php?b=43&c=1&com=mhc>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/ephesians-51/>

<sup>6</sup> [http://executableoutlines.com/ep/ep\\_05.htm](http://executableoutlines.com/ep/ep_05.htm)

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

