
Bible Study Center Seminar

Topic: “Being the Light of the World”

February 1–3, 2023

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Session 1A: Introduction to Bible Study (Light & Darkness)

Our Philosophy

- We believe the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*”
- We want to give everyone the tools to study the Bible for themselves and learn to follow God’s word
- Christians can be unified by knowing God’s word

Bible Study Methods

- An entire Book
- By Chapter
- A single Verse
- Specific Word(s)
- Studying a Subject or Topic

This study will use the Subject Method

The subject method allows you to see all the information on a topic. It is often quicker than studying through a whole book, and is very useful if you want to teach a course or a lesson on a particular topic. Unlike the book/chapter/verse methods, with the subject method you will usually need to check references in many books of the Bible helping you to come in contact with ALL of God’s word.

Of course, every method has its downside. With the subject or topical method it is easy to take things out of context. However, if you expand your study to include the context of the verses you find, then you can develop a much fuller understanding of God’s word.

Step 1: Select a subject

- Person (Moses, Jesus, etc)
- Teaching or Command (Love your neighbor...)
- Word or Concept (love, faith, baptism, etc)
- Our study right now is on being the light of the world.

Step 2: Find the Bible References

- Look up all possible references to your topic
- Decide if it really is talking about your topic
- Think of other words that could talk about your topic
- Some words to consider for our study: “Light” – “Shine” – “Illumine” – “Lamp”

Step 3: Study the Bible Reference

- Zoom out enough to make sure you have the right context
- Make notes about each reference (probably short)
- Look for other words that could help you with the topic
- Consider “light” vs “darkness”

Step 4: Organize your Findings

- By the time you get here, you will have a good idea of what’s going on
- Combine the information
- Some passages will be harder to sort out and understand
- This requires thought and time!

Step 5: Illustrate & Apply

- “What does this have to do with me?”
- Look for Bible examples
- Look for example in your life
- Look at other people’s conclusions
- Your study doesn’t stop when the class or seminar ends

Bible Study without CHANGE is USELESS!

Remember 2 Timothy 3:16-17!

Light and Darkness

Before studying “the light of the world” we take time to think about how the Bible discusses light and darkness in general. Considering the terms we mentioned earlier, there are about 450 verses to consider, plus their surrounding context. Of these 450:

- About 30 are completely off-topic
- 30 more are about “lightning”
- About 150 mention both light and darkness together
- Many are merely references to physical light

A fundamental contrast throughout the Bible

Light and darkness are opposite sides of the same coin. The contrast between them runs throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. They are used to represent a number of concepts. Consider the following:

The contrast between light and darkness starts with the opening lines of Genesis:

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and **darkness** was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “**Let there be light**”; and **there was light**. And **God saw that the light was good**; and **God separated the light from the darkness**. And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.” (Genesis 1:1-5 NAS)*

Darkness is often associated with a time of fear, danger, despair:

*“Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even **a darkness which may be felt**.” (Exodus 10:21 NAS)*

*“Let their way be **dark and slippery**, With the angel of the LORD pursuing them.”
(Psalm 35:6 NAS)*

*“Then they will look to the earth, and behold, **distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish**; and they will be driven away into darkness.” (Isaiah 8:22 NAS)*

Light and darkness are used to represent salvation and destruction:

*“The LORD is **my light and my salvation**; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread” (Psalm 27:1 NAS)*

*“A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, **A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom**, A day of clouds and thick darkness,” (Zephaniah 1:15 NAS)*

Good and evil:

*“Woe to those **who call evil good, and good evil**; Who substitute **darkness for light and light for darkness**; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20 NAS)*

*"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and **men loved the darkness rather than the light**; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."* (John 3:19-20 NAS)

Life and death:

*"The people who were **sitting in darkness** saw a great light, And to those who were sitting in the land and **shadow of death**, Upon them a light dawned."* (Matthew 4:16 NAS)

*Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall **have the light of life**."* (John 8:12 NAS)

God's word is depicted as a light:

*"**Thy word is a lamp to my feet**, And a light to my path."* (Psalm 119:105 NAS)

*"The **unfolding of Thy words gives light**; It gives understanding to the simple."*
(Psalm 119:130 NAS)

*"And so we have **the prophetic word** made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to **a lamp shining in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."* (2 Peter 1:19 NAS)

Walking in the light is walking with God:

*"And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all**. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if **we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."* (1 John 1:5-7 NAS)

Session 1B: Jesus: Light of the World

Now that we have basic understanding of light and darkness in the Bible, we can begin to talk about "being the light of the world." Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world." That will be the topic for tomorrow's session. But today we want to consider what is recorded in the gospel of John where Jesus says roughly four times that he is the light of the world (see also John 11:9 and 12:46):

*Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world**; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have **the light of life**."* (John 8:12 NAS)

*"We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; **night is coming, when no man can work**. While I am in the world, **I am the light of the world**."* (John 9:4-5 NAS)

The contrast of light and darkness is very strong throughout the writings of the apostle John. It is a major theme of both his gospel and his first epistle. The opening verses of the Gospel of John are particularly important to our discussion about Jesus being the light of the world. Consider this entire passage as John describes "the Word":

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

*There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light. **There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.*

He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1-14 NAS)

Jesus’ coming into the world was also prophesied centuries before his birth. The prophet Isaiah had much to say about the Messiah and his ministry including naming the place where most of it would take place. We can also see the purpose of his coming in the image of a light dawning upon a land sitting in the “shadow of death.”

*“He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- **The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, And to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a light dawned.**’” (Matthew 4:13-16 NAS)*

The next passage shows how Jesus was sent not only to rescue the people of Israel with whom God had made a covenant hundreds of years earlier, but that he would also be a “light of the nations” sending out God’s salvation “to the end of the earth.”

*“And now says the LORD, **who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant,** To bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength), He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You **a light of the nations** So that **My salvation** may reach to the end of the earth.’” (Isaiah 49:5-6 NAS)*

And while darkness may not quite comprehend the light or be able to overcome it, that doesn’t mean the spiritual forces of evil in this world won’t try. The blinding of people’s minds and hearts to the good news of Jesus Christ is still a problem to this day.

*“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has **blinded the minds** of the unbelieving, that they might not see **the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,** who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, ‘**Light shall shine out of darkness,**’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give **the light of the knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:3-6 NAS)*

Despite the efforts of the enemies of God, the final chapters of scripture make it abundantly clear that God will be victorious and that his people will dwell with him and be surrounded with the light of his presence:

*“And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for **the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.** And **the nations shall walk by its light,** and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.” (Revelation 21:22-24 NAS)*

Walking in the light of our Lord in this life and having the hope of living in that light for all eternity has been a wonderful comfort to Christians throughout the ages. The “True Light” has been revealed. Next we will consider how our lives can bring even more glory to God and shine His light into the darkness of the world around us.

Jesus: Light of the World

*"I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, **As a light to the nations, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon, And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.**" (Isaiah 42:6-7 NAS)*

*"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for **my eyes have seen your salvation** that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.**" (Luke 2:29-32 ESV)*

Session 2A: "You are the Light of the World"

The Sermon on the Mount

- Matthew 5–7
- Some of the most fundamental and radical teachings of Christianity
- The Beatitudes
- "You have heard...but I say..."
- "Love your enemies..." & the so-called Golden Rule
- "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven..."

*"You are the **salt of the earth**; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."*

*"**You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men** in such a way that they may **see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**"(Matthew 5:13-16 NAS)*

Why compare the disciples to salt?

- Salt is valuable
 - Important for health of humans, animals, and many plants
 - Salt gives taste to food
 - Salt was used for preservation, cleansing, and purifying (2 Kings 2:19-22; Ezekiel 16:4)
 - Salt was required for many Old Covenant offerings (Exodus 30:35; Leviticus 2:13; Ezra 6:9; Ezekiel 43:24)
- Salt is sometimes used to represent goodness or purity (Colossians 4:6)
- A covenant of salt was a perpetual covenant (Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5)

- Salt was sometimes sown over a city or land after its destruction so that it would not be rebuilt
- Salt has great influence on its surroundings

Why compare the disciples to light?

- Light shines in darkness.
 - Light is a source of energy and life
 - Light is a guide, it lets you see where you are going
 - Light exposes sin, (John 3:19-21; Ephesians 5:8-16)
- God has made us a light to the nations to bring salvation to the end of the earth (Acts 13:47; 26:16-23; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Philippians 2:15)
- Light also has influence on its surroundings

Light Exposes Sin and Evil

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: **the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness** rather than the light **because their works were evil**. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But **whoever does what is true comes to the light**, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." (John 3:19-21 ESV)*

*...at one time **you were darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of light is found in **all that is good and right and true**), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in **the unfruitful works of darkness**, but instead **expose them**. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But **when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible**, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**" **Look carefully then how you walk**, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:8-16 ESV)*

Bringing Salvation to the Ends of the Earth

*But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were **filled with jealousy** and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was **necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you**. Since you thrust it aside and **judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life**, behold, **we are turning to the Gentiles**. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "'I have **made you a light for the Gentiles**, that you may **bring salvation to the ends of the earth**.'" And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and **as many as were appointed to eternal life believed**. And **the word of the Lord was spreading** throughout the whole region. (Acts 13:45-49 ESV)*

But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles-- to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' (Acts 26:16-18 ESV)

Having the Light of the Gospel in Jars of Clay

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.”

(2 Corinthians 4:3-12 ESV)

Session 2B: “Let Your Light Shine Before Men”

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16 NAS)

Jesus may have been referring to the Greco-Roman city of Hippos rested atop a hill on the eastern coast of the Sea of Galilee. It would have been visible from almost any point on the Sea of Galilee.

Some examples of letting your light shine:

After encouraging the church to have the same mind as Christ and live lives of humility, Paul told this to the church in Philippi:

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain
(Philippians 2:14-16 NAS)

Likewise, Peter wrote to Christians across several regions about how to live among their non-Christian neighbors and follow the example of Christ:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God;

you had not received mercy, but now **you have received mercy**. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to **abstain from fleshly lusts**, which wage war against the soul.

Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may **on account of your good deeds**, as they observe them, **glorify God** in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that **by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men**.

Act as free men, and **do not use your freedom as a covering for evil**, but use it as bondslaves of God. **Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king**. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

For you have been called for this purpose, since **Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you **an example for you** to follow in His steps, who **committed no sin**, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, **they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives**, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. And let not your adornment be merely external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be **the hidden person of the heart**, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. (1 Peter 2:9-3:4 NAS)

The Fragrance of Christ

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and **manifests through us** the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For **we are a fragrance of Christ** to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one **an aroma from death to death**, to the other **an aroma from life to life**. And who is adequate for these things? For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God. (2 Corinthians 2:14-17)

Session 3A: Are you Shining or Hiding?

A Light Experiment

Most of the light we see and experience every day is reflected light. But suppose you had two closed rooms which were the same size, had the same single light source, but the only difference was one had white walls and the other was painted ultra black. What do you think that room would be like?

To see what it looks like you can check out this YouTube video from The Action Lab:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6q54q2iam8>

The black paint absorbs almost all of the light which hits it, so the room is extremely dark even though the same light is illuminating both of them. Without something to reflect that light into other parts of the room, it's like being in outer space with harsh, deep shadows on everything which isn't facing directly toward the light.

Hiding Your Lamp

Now Imagine Jesus, “True Light” of the world, as that single light bulb in a black room. And imagine yourself and others as reflecting that light by our good works into other parts of the room.

Or using something closer to Jesus’ original teaching, imagine yourself as a newly lit lamp. What’s your purpose? How should your light be used? What does Jesus mean about putting a light under a basket or a bed? Let’s look at the context of those statements...

Between the Beatitudes and his discussion of the law

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**” (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV)*

After some similar teachings from the Sermon on the Mount, casting out a demon, and being asked for a sign

*“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. **Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.**”*

(Luke 11:33-36 ESV)

Between the Parables of the Sower and of the Weeds

*“Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? **For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.**” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: **with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to***

you. **For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**" (Mark 4:21-25 ESV)

After the Parable of the Sower

"No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. **For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.** Take care then how you hear, **for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.**" (Luke 8:16-18 ESV)

"To the one who has..."

This teaching of Jesus appears in three contexts:

- The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8)
- The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25)
- The Parable of the Minas (Luke 19)

Each compares those who are productive with what the Lord has given them with those who waste it or do nothing at all. But how does that relate to being the light of the world?

What's Hidden Will Be Revealed

Jesus uses this statement in one other context: warning his disciples about their coming persecution (Matthew 10, Luke 12).

*He began saying to His disciples first of all, "**Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.**" But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. "Accordingly, **whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.***

*"And I say to you, My friends, **do not be afraid of those who kill the body,** and after that have no more that they can do. "But I will warn you whom to fear: **fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell;** yes, I tell you, fear Him! "Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.***

*"And I say to you, **everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man shall confess him also before the angels of God;** 9 **but he who denies Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.** 10 "And everyone who will speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him.*

*"And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, **do not become anxious** about how or what you should speak in your defense, or what you should say; **for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**"*

(Luke 12:1-12 NAS)

Matthew says much of the same thing in chapter 10:

"For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against

parents, and cause them to be put to death. And **you will be hated by all on account of My name**, but it **is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved**. But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish going through the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. **It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher**, and the slave as his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! **Therefore do not fear them**, for there is **nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known**. **What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light**; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

"And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather **fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**. Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But **the very hairs of your head are all numbered**. Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows. **Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.**

"**Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth**; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. **He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me**; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And **he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me**.

"**He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me**. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he **shall not lose his reward**." (Matthew 10:39-42 NAS)

The Glory of the Lord

Finally, let's consider something from the story of Moses and an analogy by the apostle Paul:

*"But whenever **Moses went in before the LORD** to speak with Him, **he would take off the veil** until he came out; and whenever he came out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded, **the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone**. So Moses would **replace the veil over his face** until he went in to speak with Him."*
(Exodus 34:34-35 NAS)

*"But if **the ministry of death**, in letters engraved on stones, **came with glory**, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of **the glory of his face, fading as it was**, how shall **the ministry of the Spirit** fail to be **even more with glory**?"*

*"...But we all, **with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."*
(2 Corinthians 3:7-8, 18 NAS)

God has shone into our hearts to give us the knowledge of his glory. He wants us to share that knowledge with the world around us so that his salvation will go out to the ends of the earth. We are lights in the world, but if we hide our light we will face the consequences—"even what he has will be taken away."

Session 3B: Questions and Answers