

Christ's Triumphant Light

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We have heard the expression “the world seems like a darker place now”. It is a statement sometimes said after someone who lived a loving life passes away. Indeed, this world can seem like a dark place. The Lord said that as Christians we are to be “as lights shining in the world”, but even our function as lights in this world is only temporary as we all have to make our departure from this world to the next. However there is a more permanent light, one that never goes away.

We hear in the opening verses of the gospel of John, “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it”. The Light that the gospel is referring to is Christ Himself. The Light of Christ is an illumination, an illumination that is there for each one of us to experience. To illuminate means to provide or brighten with light or to become lighted or to glow. If indeed we desire this illumination, this experiencing the Light of Christ, then we will need to move towards the Light of Christ. The Lord even tells us just before the last supper, “to become children of the light, that we may walk in the light”. How do we do this? How do we seek to be illuminated by the Light of Christ?

It starts with our choices, the choices that we make in our lives. It is a choosing of light over darkness. The deeds that we engage in, our thoughts that we think, our feelings that we feel, how conscious we are of our motives and intentions, and the decisions that we make, will all determine whether we walk in darkness or light. Our ability to look in the mirror and see the truth of ourselves without turning away is a necessity. To experience the illumination of the light of Christ is to live a life of peace and love, to be at harmony with creation and with others. It is about acceptance, acceptance of the life God has given us each moment. It is to clear out all the idols in our life that stand in between us and God. It is to be a genuine person, for the Light of Christ exposes all and everything about us. Some may, when encountering the Light of Christ, retreat into the darkness and go back to the way of the world, but those who truly desire illumination will stay in the light and address and change whatever dark spots or blemishes that the Light of Christ reveals about them. So, will we move towards the light, the light that reveals all, heals, and teaches, or will we flee away?

In the book of revelation we are told that in the kingdom of heaven, “there is no need for the sun or the moon to shine, for the Lamb is its light”. We know that the Lamb is Christ Himself. The light of Christ is unceasing and always existing. We hear in the words, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it”, themes of hope, comfort, and victory. No matter how dark the world may seem, no matter what may befall us in this life, the Light of Christ overpowers all darkness and illumines all those who seek it.

