

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE: “JESUS LIGHT”

THESIS: Receive The Presence

TEXT: John 1:1-18

OPEN: (*foxnews.com* 11/24/18: “Church Fire Leads To Discovery Of Illegal Gambling Room Inside”)

That story is *not* what the Lord had in mind when He says in “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (*John 10:10*). In **John 1:1-18** let’s discover how the presence of Jesus is the light of life and blessing from God.

1. RECEIVE THE PRESENCE OF THE JESUS LIGHT FOR THE BLESSING LIFE.

A. **John 1:1-5** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In Him was life and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”

1. *The blessing life sees Jesus as God—the Word of creation (the Beginning) and consummation (the End).*

a. **Word** (Greek: *logos*) means expression, matter, reason, revelation, or true insight. “*Logos* is a term used by Greeks to refer to the governing power behind all things. Jews used this term in referring to God” (Spiro Zodhiates, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, p. 1238).

1. **John 1:14, 18** “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only Begotten, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only Begotten, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.”

a. **Historical:** In antiquity, the righthand seat beside a king’s throne was reserved for his firstborn son. Therefore, Jesus has equal power and authority with God and is divine. By saying, “God the One and Only (Begotten Son), who is at the Father’s side,” Scripture testifies to the exaltation of Christ.

b. The Old and New Testaments alike proclaim Jesus to be God.

1. **Genesis 1:26** “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...’”

2. **Isaiah 9:6** “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

3. **John 10:30** “I and the Father are one.”

4. **Philippians 2:5-6a** “Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God...”

a. **Very nature** (Greek: *morphe*) means form, which is the display of the inner being or substance; referring to Christ Jesus, He is the display of divine essence (God).

1. *Insight from William Barclay:* “There are two Greek words for the word “form” or “nature,” *morphe* and *schema*. They do not mean the same thing. *Morphe* is the essential form that never alters; *schema* is the outward form which changes from time to time.”

2. For instance, the *morphe* of any person is humanity and this does not change; but a person’s *schema* (body) is continually changing. A baby, a child, a youth, a man of middle age, an old man always have the *morphe* of humanity, but the outward *schema* changes frequently over time.

2. *The blessing life sees Jesus as God—the Word of reason and revelation.*

a. **Life** (Greek: *zoe*) means activity, motion, and vitality. It’s not just existence, but a God-inspired energy, liveliness, and vigor.

1. **Colossians 1:15-17** “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created

by Him *and for Him* (the reason). ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

- a. **Insight from Spiro Zodhiates:** “John’s gospel begins with a discussion of the eternal existence of Jesus. He is called the *logos*—the Word—a term by Greeks referencing the governing power behind all things. Jews used this term in referring to God” (*Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, p. 1238).
- b. By saying, “Through Him all things were made,” the Apostle John is testifying to the lordship of Jesus Christ. Since He made all things—all things belong to Him, so He has all power and authority—the divine right to command and be worshipped as God.
 1. **John 14:23-24** “Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own, they belong to the Father who sent Me.’”

CONCLUSION: Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth which is exactly what everybody in this world needs.

John 1:12-13 “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

Right (Greek: *exousia*) means power or privilege.

Salvation is a gift from God—it’s charity. No one can make it to Heaven on their own merit. Eternal life in Heaven is not automatic for everyone who dies. It’s not an entitlement—it’s a grant from God through faith in His Son Jesus Christ. The Lord is graceful that way.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

By saying, “children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God,” the Apostle is testifying that just because one may belong to a religious family or heritage like the Jews of His day, for example, it doesn’t mean that you will automatically be a part of His eternal kingdom because of the relation. You must be born again, that is born of God.

This is what Jesus tells Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council (*John 3:1*). However, Jesus said to him as He does to everybody including us: “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit” (*John 3:5*). **Mark 16:16** “Whoever believes *and* is baptized (immersed) will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Illustration: (“From CB For Rams To Long Prison Sentence—What I’ve Learned” by Daryl Henley *foxnews.com* 08/27/18)

John 8:12 “When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

CLOSE: Will you receive the presence of the Jesus light for the blessing life here and the hereafter?