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THE GREAT CHRISTMAS LIGHT
(John 1:4-5)

INTRODUCTION :

One of the things I love about Christmas are the lights.

John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The meaning of the Word “logos”, means “revelation”.

I shared with you last week that we cannot know a thing, unless it is revealed to you.

Example given : Jacinto Alonzo name, you don't know him but I'll tell you who he is

In short, we will not be able to know God unless God reveals Himself to you.

How did He reveal Himself? Through the Word of God.

NOW You will know Jacinto Alonzo fully if he comes in the flesh. And God came in the flesh and His name is Jesus Christ.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

He then says in verse 3 that since Jesus is God, everything that we see, hear and breathe and even the very ground we are standing are here AND is still here is because of THE WORD (JESUS)

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made,

Colossians 1: 15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Now in verse 4 it says :

4 In him was life

Three words in the bible for life :

1. Bios : anything that is physical/material life e.g. our bodies have life; birds have life; animals have life; trees have life.

Luke 8:14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

2. Psuchos : “psyche” that is our mind, emotion, our will

E.g. What's the matter, you have no life in you. Or wala ka namang kabuhay-buhay, or he is the life of the party

Matthew 16: 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it

IMPORTANT : Jesus is saying here, if you surrender your life (psyche), mind, emotion and will to me, that's where you will find true satisfaction in life.

Quick commentary on the correlation between BIOS and Psyche before I go to the third meaning. Let me give you a quick glance. People think that "bios" gives them "psyche" (satisfaction in mind, emotion, or will).

Example : People think that things in this BIOS LIFE e.g. life in the farm, shopping, great relationships (husband, wife, friends or kids) is the one that satisfies their PSYCHE LIFE (emotions, peace-of-mind, will).

Story : When Bill Bright moved to Los Angeles in the 1940s, he met Elwain Steinkamp, a real estate developer who built the prestigious Bel Air community. One day beside his swimming pool, Steinkamp told Bill, "Material success is not where you find happiness. There are rich people all over this city who are the most miserable people you'll ever meet. Knowing and serving Jesus Christ is what's really important. He's the only way to find happiness." Mr. Steinkamp went on to quote Jesus: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

3. Zoe : spiritual life, life that is from God; true life

In him was life

Why is it important to know "zoe"?

Now let's correlate ZOE LIFE with PSYCHE life

People think in order for them to get satisfaction in their psyche (soul), they spend their life immersing in bios (immersing in nature, going on trips and etc; or buying stuff; making lots of money; having great relationships e.g. family, boyfriends and etc); there's nothing wrong with this per se. But the problem with immersing in bios for your psyche is bios comes and goes

Illustrations :

- You have to go home from nature trips; I heard a study that people suffer a slight depression a few days after a vacation (whether in a beach, camping, forest and etc)
- There's also a reason why people become shopaholics is because they want that feeling of high every time.
- Or people find satisfaction in other "bios"; relationships with other people (friends, family, wife, husband, children); but sometimes those relationships go haywire and etc. That's why when something happens to these relationships, they become depressed and hopeless

But what the Bible is saying, in order for you to have true satisfaction and joy in life, we need to have ZOE LIFE

So the question is, how can you have "zoe" in your life?

4 In him was life

GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ZOE LIFE!

That's why the Bible says,

Matthew 6: 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

If you have ZOE LIFE, then you will also have PSYCHE and BIOS LIFE!

Next question is : So who is this God that is the source of “zoe” spiritual life; eternal life

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Etymology : “light” “phos”

What is the main purpose of light?

It allows us to see things for what or who they really are.

Illustration : Our “barkada” has a term “gabigenic”. We say to ourselves. Don’t fall for a girl you met at a club or disco. It’s because they might be “gabigenic”, they’re only beautiful at night. So make sure you visit them immediately, in the morning.

It’s because light allows us to see things for what or who they really are.

If you want to have God who is the source of spiritual life, deep down satisfaction, eternal life, you need to know who He is and He is Jesus Christ, He is the LIGHT! The one who shows who God really is.

So if you want to have Zoe Life, you need to have THE LIGHT AND THE SON IS THE LIGHT!

1 John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

It’s because if you have Jesus, this is His promise :

John 10:10 “I have come that they may have life (zoe) and may have life (zoe) abundantly.”

CONCLUSION AND SUMMON :

December 22 is the longest night of the year (winter solstice)

In the Northern countries, there are people who suffer from “winter depression” or S.A.D.“seasonal affective disorder”. People become depressed because of lack of light.

What’s the cause? Serotonin levels. A drop in serotonin, a brain chemical (neurotransmitter) that affects mood, might play a role in SAD. Reduced sunlight can cause a drop in serotonin that may trigger depression.

But some people here might not only be experiencing S.A.D. but there’s a term called in the Bible, “deep darkness”

- It’s a state of depression or hopelessness because you don’t see any solutions to a problem or a change in situation
- It’s a state of confusion because you can’t understand why these things are happening in your life.

So if you are in darkness, what do you need???? LIGHT!!!!

What did God say to Isaiah?

Isaiah 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for those living in a land of deep darkness, a light has shined upon them.

Who is this great light?

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."

IMPORTANT APPLICATION : So if for the longest time have that feeling of depression, confusion or hopelessness that you just gave up, God is saying to you right now? You need to go back to Jesus.

You need to focus back on Him by serving Him, by loving Him. He is the GREAT LIGHT WHO GIVES LIFE! Because the Bible says :

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Let us pray :

If you are living in darkness nowadays, confused, angry, not knowing what do, hopeless, you need the light.

The Bible says He who has the Son has life and the Son is the light of life. Perhaps, God is calling you right now and asking you to surrender everything to Him. Start focusing on Him again, start following Him, start serving Him.

S.G.D.