We thank You for your Word and we thank You for calling our spirits to attention to the Word of God. We pray Lord as we open up the Word today that there would be light. Hallelujah! There is no darkness that is too dark for the Light; there is no amount of darkness that is too great for the Light, and we thank You, Lord, that the Light has come in Jesus Christ and that in Jesus there is no darkness. We thank You, Lord. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

We are in the midst of a series about Genesis chapters one, two and three—supposedly—but I am REALLY enjoying Genesis one, verses one, two and three, so that is where we have been for a few weeks, and there we are again today. Genesis one, verse three is our text for today, but let’s go back and start where we have been, just for a running start.

**Genesis Chapter One (ESV)**

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 
2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 

   And here is our verse for today: 
3 And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. 
4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

A Carolina student and a Duke student were debating each other about who had the finer academic institution, and the Duke student said: *We are the Harvard of the South.* The Carolina student said: *At the Morehead Planetarium, we are learning about the physics of the universe. We can project the exact alignments of the planets of our solar system and see models of just how far the sun is from earth. We have learned all kinds of mind boggling realities about the wonders of the universe.*

   The Duke student said: *And that is the difference between the way you approach science and the way we approach science. We don’t just observe from a distance; we experience firsthand. In fact, our engineers are right now designing a spacecraft that will fly humans to the sun.*

   The Carolina student said: *Isn’t that impossible? It would be too hot and too bright to even begin to approach the sun without being incinerated.*

   And the Duke student replied: *That’s what makes us smarter, we’re going to go at night!*

   One of our most important scientific discoveries was that our sun is not actually disappearing at night. It only appears that way. Instead, the earth is rotating around the sun, but we cannot see the sun during the night because we are in its shadow. So even when you can’t see the sun and everything is dark, pitch black, the sun is still shining; it is just not shining where you are.

   **Are you ready for some good news?**

   You might be in a shadow at this time in your life, but even when it is dark in your world, the light of God is still shining bright.

   *Let there be Light!*
As we have learned, our sun is a medium-sized star in a galaxy with hundreds of billions of stars in a universe of hundreds of billions of galaxies that have their own hundreds of billions of stars. Yet before any of those were made, something so marvelous and mysterious happened that scientists have no way to hypothesize or name it, other than saying it must have been a big bang. It was something so dramatic that, without it, no life form as we know it would exist, and nothing that is seen as we see it would exist, and nothing that is seen as we see it would be visible.

First Words

The first words that issued from God’s mouth were, Let there be light, and what glorious words they are! The first mention of anything in the Bible is always important, and it usually will repeat in that same theme all throughout. This is known as the interpretive principle of first mention.

Inspired Words

God’s words are filled with the breath of God. We have seen in Genesis 1:2 that the Spirit was hovering over the face of the deep, ready to call everything into order when God would begin to speak. This is the work of the Spirit of God. He proceeds from God to call everything into God’s intricate design.

We also learned that the breath of God and the Spirit of God are the same word, ruach, in Old Testament Hebrew, and pneuma in New Testament Greek. So when the Father God spoke, Let there be light, the picture is of breath proceeding from His mouth in the same way your breath comes out of your mouth when you speak. Your words are filled with your breath.

The Word of God is filled with the breath of God. That is what it means for something to be inspired. It has been breathed into. And to say that it is the breath of God that fills the Word of God, is to say that it is the Spirit of God that fills God’s Word. There is no separation of the Spirit of God from the Word of God. The Spirit has infused the Word of God in the same way that your words are filled with your own breath.

Let there be Light!

A Glorious Prevalent Theme

This first mention of the glorious light in Genesis 1:3 is as a picture of the Word of God spoken into the darkness. This glorious light of God in the darkness then becomes a prevalent theme throughout all of the Scriptures.

Genesis 1:3: Let there be light.

Exodus 13:21-22; 25:31-40; 27:21: The Light is seen in the fire by night that led God’s people through the wilderness, and the golden lampstand in the holy place of the temple.

Leviticus 23:39-24: The Light is seen in the oil lamp burning bright in the festival of booths.

Numbers 8:1-4: The Light again is seen in a golden lampstand in the holy place, lighting up the Temple court.

Psalms 27:1; 119:105: The Lord is my light and my salvation; and, Thy word is a lamp for my feet and a light unto my path.

Proverbs 4:18: The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn; and, In the light of a king’s face there is life.

Hallelujah! There is no darkness that is too dark for the Light; there is no amount of darkness that is too great for the Light, The Light has come in Jesus Christ. In Jesus there is no darkness.

Isaiah 60:1; Matthew 4:16; Luke 1:78; John 12:46

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Glorious Light

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Proverbs 4:18: The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn; and, In the light of a king’s face there is life.

1 2 Timothy 3:16
Ecclesiastes 11:7: The Light of God is sweet and it is pleasant for the eyes to see.

The Prophets

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

Jeremiah 4:23: I looked on the earth and behold it was without form and void and to the heavens and they had no light. But the Light would come to those in exile.

Lamentations 3:2: The light is seen only as darkness, and the people weep, for when there is no light, there is no joy. It is a Light that the prophets speak of as God’s vindication, and the Light of God that will shine and expose the hearts of men.

Micah 5:2-5; 7:8-20: Light is vindication.

Habakkuk 3:4, 11: God’s brightness is like the light in a thunderstorm.

Zechariah 14:7: The Light shines in the evening on the coming Day of the Lord.

Matthew 5:14: We are the light of the world.

Mark 4:22: The Light will uncover everything that has been hidden.

Luke 11:35-36: 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.

John 1:4-7: In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men. There was a man who was sent from God. He himself was not the Light, but he bore witness to the true Light that was coming into the world.

Acts 9:1-8: The Light came and blinded Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, and the blinded man became the Apostle Paul, for in that Light, he saw the glory of Jesus Christ.

Romans 13:12: We cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of Light;

1 Corinthians 4:5: The Lord will bring to light that which is now hidden and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

2 Corinthians 4:6: God who said let light shine out of darkness has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, and, 11:14: Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

The breath of God
and the Spirit of God
are the same word.

The Spirit has infused the Word of God in the same way that your words are filled with your own breath.

Ephesians 5:13: Anything that is exposed by the light becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.

Colossians 1:13: We have been transported out of the kingdom of darkness and have been qualified for our share of the inheritance of the people of Light.

1 Thessalonians 5:5: You are children of Light.

1 Timothy 6:15-16: [God] Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.

1 Peter 2:9: ... that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous Light.

1 John 1:7: If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin; and, 2:10: He that loves his brother abides in light.

Revelation 21:23: And then, in the closing chapters of the Bible, John had a revelation of Heaven while he was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos, and he said that, the City [of God] has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Let there be Light!

From the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation, and on almost every page in between, the Light of God is shining, and the Light is a picture of revelation. The Word of God is revelation, something that was hidden but then was seen.

And the Light is a metaphor, with consistent meanings associated with life, truth and power, and intimately associated with the written Word of God, and Jesus Himself, Who is the Living Word.

Light preceded all of creation, and light precedes life. Light is fascinating.
In the Beginning, God's Grace Was There

Part 3: Let There Be Light!

Physics of Light

Those of you who have been hearing these messages in Genesis know that while I am not, and never have been, a student of science or physics, I have become an amateur physicist over the last few weeks of studying Genesis, and it is blowing my mind!

We have discussed how BIG is the universe, that our earth can fit a million times into our sun, which is a medium-size star, and that there are much bigger stars, like Canis Majoris, the Big Dog star, into which you could fit seven quadrillion earths.

We have also been fascinated with how small the universe can be by learning that there are six hundred sextillion molecules — that number is $10^{23}$ — in only 18 milliliters, or 3.6 teaspoons, of water. We tried to envision that number by seeing it as comparable to the number of marshmallows it would take to cover the entire surface of the earth to a depth of five miles. Wow! [After I used that illustration last week, somebody started circulating on Facebook whether the comparison was with mini-marshmallows or jumbo marshmallows!]

It has all been absolutely mind-boggling. And our discoveries today will be no exception, for this week I have yet to fully understand everything he told me about light, but that will work to your benefit, because now my account of these fascinating discoveries cannot become too complicated!

Association with Time

My first discovery was that light and time are closely associated. The physicists say that IF you could travel faster than light, you could go back in time. I don’t understand how, but this is encouraging to me because through Jesus Christ God made everything that exists, including the light, so therefore He is able to travel faster than light!

But I don’t need that hypothesis to know that Jesus has no problem going back to your past. That is why we pray for God to heal us in a moment in our past. He is able to be there. You cannot wrap your mind around that, but you can wrap your mind around God. It is Who He is.

No Greater Speed

At 186,000 miles per second, light travels at the fastest and most constant speed of any type of communication or any type of matter in all the universe. Someone sent me a relatively recent study of some newly-discovered particles called neutrinos. This study claims success with causing these particles to travel slightly faster than the speed of light – slightly faster, as in billionths of a millisecond faster. However, other scholars think the findings will be disproved, because everything in physics depends on the principle that the speed of light is a constant, and there is nothing faster than light.

Light is very fast. I don’t know if that is exciting to you or not, but it is really exciting to me that when God spoke His first words, Let there be light, that light issued forth from the mouth of God at 186,000 miles per second! That is exciting, and it had a profound impact on me as I began to realize its implications.

The Roman centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant, and when Jesus sent word that He was on His way, the centurion said to Jesus: You don’t need to come to my house. Just send your word and my servant will be healed — send your word at 186,000 miles per second. That will be plenty quick enough — and the servant was healed.²

² John 1:3, 10; 1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:16, Heb 1:2
³ Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10
Someone today will receive a word that God loves you.
You have heard it a million times, but when it comes into the light, it becomes a revelation to you, and everything changes.
It can all change in an instant.

The Word of God is fast – quick and powerful, and the Word of God, the revelation of God, can turn your life in an instant. Someone today will receive a word that God loves you. You have heard it a million times, but when it comes into the light, it becomes a revelation to you, and everything changes. It can all change in an instant.

Dual Properties
Light has dual properties. It is a wave, but it acts like a particle. It is pure energy, but it displays the properties of a tiny particle of matter. The physicists call this the duality of light.

I couldn’t help but wonder if when God speaks a word, is it the energy of the Spirit in that word that accomplishes its purpose, or is it the word in itself that accomplishes the purpose? I don’t know. It is both. His Word is so strong. If He says, Move mountain; move into the heart of the sea, is it that there is an energy that moves the mountain, or that He forms a new mountain with His Word? I don’t know.

Uniqueness in a Vacuum
Light is not like sound; light waves are not like sound waves. This fascinated me. Sound waves can only travel in a medium. They are able to travel through air or water, or solid matter like a wall. But sound cannot travel in a vacuum. If you were to suck all the air out of a particular container, you would not be able to hear a sound inside of that container. But light waves aren’t like that. They travel in a vacuum. In fact, light travels best in nothingness. That is why the Hubble telescope is capturing such incredible images. We see a twinkling star because our environment interferes with the light from that star. But a telescope can capture clear images in the nothingness of space, because there the light travels beautifully.

And that excites me because sometimes life feels so dark that it is like nothingness, and I like to be reminded that God’s Word travels faster than the speed of light and works best in a vacuum. You don’t have to bring anything to your darkness except God’s Word. When He speaks, He can speak into the nothingness.

Light & Life
Light Precedes Life
Notice that God created the light before He created the stars. You would almost think that the ancient writer of Genesis chapter one knew some physics. Here we are all these years later with our sophisticated physics. The hypothesis is that the universe is expanding, and that if we could shrink it all back, back, back, back, back, it would arrive at some point in the nothingness, physicists say, at which something BIG happened, a BIG BOOM, and then the universe all started expanding.

Some point in the nothingness, and then: Let there be Light ...

BOOM!

The light, therefore, comes first, because it can travel through the nothingness. The light precedes all the life.

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4 Hebrews 4:12
Fear loses its power in the revelation of truth, so truth brings freedom from fear. Let there be light!

Life Depends upon Light

Sunlight is necessary for plankton and plants to grow; plankton and plants are at the base of the food chain; and all life depends upon the growth of the plankton and plants. Light brings life. All life depends upon the light.

So everywhere you see light in the Scripture, it is associated with life. Light and life: The two are inseparable: In Him was life and it was the light of men; I am the light of the world; I came to bring you abundant life; because where there is light, there is life.

Revelation

In the midst of our difficult times, we think we need a change of our environment, but what we really need far more than that is Light. We need revelation. We need understanding. We need to know that God is with us, and that the Word of God is prevailing in the midst of our circumstances. And when we receive that Light, life comes. The Word of God brings life to our mortal being. The Word of God is living, and sharp as a two-edged sword.

Light precedes life. When you feel lifeless, let there be Light, and it will bring life.

Darkness

Separate from light

Have you noticed that in Genesis one, amidst all the detail of everything God created, there is no mention of God creating darkness? Here we are only told that God created light and separated the darkness from the light.

You cannot mix darkness and light. They are by definition separate. If you mix darkness with light, what happens? Everything is light. Light is not like a jar of water into which you place a drop of red food coloring and it becomes pink. You cannot drop a little darkness into light and make it a little grey. It doesn’t work like that. Light and darkness are separate. If you bring light into the darkness, the darkness must depart.

Of the spiritual realm

Everything you need to know about spiritual warfare is wrapped up right there in Genesis one verse three. If you shine the light, the darkness cannot overcome it. The power of God over the devil is pictured in this. As much as light has power over darkness, even more so God has power over the darkness of hell. We will not be obsessed with ridding ourselves of the sin in our lives. We will be consumed with filling our lives with the light of the Gospel. That is the best way. Shine the light!

Let there be Light!

The Light of God for Us

Reveals What Is Hidden

Light reveals what is hidden, so what is hidden, if it is really there, loses its strategic power. It is like the little child who is scared of the dark. Mommy comes in and cuts on the light and the child realizes that the scary object is only a chair, not a monster. Fear loses its power in the revelation of truth, so truth brings freedom from fear. But whatever is hiding in the darkness, is hiding because if it is exposed it will have to leave and look for some other place of darkness.

Let there be Light!

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5 John 1:4
6 John 8:12, 9:5
7 John 10:10
8 Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23
9 Note that the Isaiah 45:7 mention of God creating darkness affirms Gods sovereignty over darkness.

10 John 12:46
11 Matthew 12:43; Luke 11:24
Reveals the Way

To our destiny

Anne’s uncle Stanley was a pilot many years ago and he owned a little plane which didn’t have much navigational equipment. One day they miscalculated their time and it became dark, so with no equipment to find an airport, they had no choice other than to keep flying, all the while wondering when they would run out of gas.

Suddenly, the field beneath them began shining with airport runway lights! Thinking someone had heard them in the sky and had cut on the runway lights for them, they landed their plane safely and then ran out to tell the man how thankful they were.

THANK YOU! Thank you for turning on those lights when you heard us overhead!

But the man said, I didn’t hear you flying overhead. This is a new battery-powered light system for the runway, and I just came out here to turn it on and see if it worked.

If a battery-powered set of runway lights could save a pilot in the sky, how much more does the light of God’s Word – the revelation that comes from God – light up our way? God’s Word is a light unto our path. It is a light to keep us from stumbling while we are on the path, and it is a light as to which path to take. Let there be light for our destiny.

To overcoming our sin

Let there be light also that we will overcome our sin. I like the way Dudley Hall expressed it in his book, Grace Works. He said that when you are stumbling in the darkness, when you are continually falling into the same sins and hurting yourself and others, it is like you are bumping into furniture because it is dark, and you are ashamed. Then the voice of condemnation comes from the darkness and says: Quit bumping into the furniture like that. Can’t you do any better than that? You bump into something else and the voice says, Look, there you go again. You’ll have to do better than that if you are going to make it in this world. And you keep bumping, trying, but you can’t find a way.

But the voice of the conviction of the Holy Spirit is very different. His voice comes into that same dark room where you are bumping into that furniture and says, You were made for more than that. Let there be light. The light comes on and you can see, so you quit stumbling. And when the conviction of the Holy Spirit comes, you are so thankful that you can see the better way, and you are so drawn towards it, that you no longer need to wallow in the shame and the regret. You just acknowledge the truth and say, That was wrong. That was sin. This is the right way.

It is that beautiful with God.

Reveals Beauty

God’s light reveals beauty. You could have in front of you the most beautiful rose, or the most beautiful diamond, or the most beautiful car – whatever would delight your senses – but if it is dark, you can’t see it. Yet it is there. Let there be light so you can see true treasure, the treasures of God.

Let There Be Light!

In Your Heart

Let there be light in your heart. Let your heart be open to the Light of God shining into your very being, where the darkness is dispelled. Continually allow the rich Word of Christ to dwell in you, and the revelations of God’s love to fill you.

In Your Relationships

Let there be light in your friendships, light in your work relationships, light in your family relationships and light in your marriage relationships.

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12 Psalm 119:105
13 Dudley Hall, Grace Works (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2000).
14 Colossians 3:16
15 Romans 5:5
Counselors have come to realize that there is an astounding amount of healing that takes place just because somebody speaks the truth in love. And it is true, because without the light in our souls and in our relationships, when we most need to be able to be in the light, we are tempted to go further into the darkness. The time when you most need help for the sin in your life is when you are most ashamed of it and hiding it in the darkness all the more. But the principle of God’s Word is that when we walk in the light as He is in the light, then the blood of Jesus, which is a finished work for us, becomes effectively appropriated for us in a washing, and we have fellowship with one another.\(^\text{16}\)

The light of God has come in Jesus Christ, and we have a choice to let there be light in our relationships.

**In the World**

Let there be light in the world, Church of Jesus Christ. You are the light of the world.\(^\text{17}\) We are in a generation and a culture that is trying hard to find a way to say that the light and the darkness can be mixed, but it cannot. There is no mixing of love and hate. There is no mixing of truth and deception.

When I think about the opening verses of the Bible and God saying, *Let there be light,*

When I think about this light penetrating the vacuum of the void and being called by God into existence;

When I think about this light moving confidently through space at 186,000 miles per second to accomplish its purposes;

And when I think of Jesus coming to earth and saying, I am the light, and then turning to the church and saying this is now in you, the Word of God dwelling richly by faith in you, making you the light of the world, then, of whom can we be afraid?\(^\text{18}\)

Church, let there be light in the world; let there be light in your heart; let there be light in your relationships, because I promise you, the darkness cannot overcome it. AMEN!

**And THAT is the Gospel!**

Father, thank You today for the incredible light of the Gospel in Jesus Christ. It is more than a joyful fascination to see the Gospel all woven into the opening verses of the Bible. It is life to us to see Your exquisite beauty and Your incomparable power.

We do not pretend to understand Your ways any more than we can understand the ways of light, but we see You at work and we take You at your word. You are our King, and You are our Father. We love You. Let there be light, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

I would like to leave you today with a word from Romans chapter thirteen, and I would like you to take it very personally, to claim it, to hold onto it, and to wear it:

\(^{12}\) The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

I send you out today armed with Light. In Jesus Christ you are armed with the light of God’s first words, *Let there be light;* you are armed with the Light that travels even faster than 186,000 miles per second; you are armed with the Light of revelation – the Word of God; and you are armed with the Light that always dispels the darkness, for God loves you. It is not His plan for you to stumble in darkness, but to walk in the Light, as He is in the Light!

*May God bless you and keep you and be kind and gracious to you, and make His face to shine upon you, and give you His peace today and every day, forevermore.*

And all God’s people said, AMEN!

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\(^{16}\) 1 John 1:7  
\(^{17}\) Matthew 5:14  
\(^{18}\) Psalm 27:1

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