**God Gave Us Light (John 1:1-13)**

 In this dark world, God gave us Jesus as light. Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we begin a new sermon series today with the theme of thanksgiving in mind. We’re going to have three sermons in this series, and each one will be a reason to give thanks to God. The first is Jesus Himself.

 Mankind, up until Jesus came on the scene, was suffering from living in darkness. They were floundering about, lost in the dark, not knowing where they were going to find the way that led to true life. The Jews, for example, had kept the Law (of Moses) for centuries, but never attained the holiness they sought by doing so. The Gentile world, on the other hand, was completely lost and did not even know who the true God was. For the above reasons, our Lord God send Jesus his Son, so that both Jew and Gentile would find the true road through His (Christ’s) person. Today’s sermon subject is that enlightening experience – and, we are thankful to God because he has given light to our lives through Jesus. Let’s move onto our principal topic, then…

 We are thankful to God that he sent us Jesus, so that we could find our way back to relationship with him. Getting into our reading, let’s look at the word “world” for a moment: the term does not simply refer to the universe, but also all unbelieving humanity as a whole. The text says that God sent his Son, who was the Word with him from the beginning, and through whom everything came into existence. But before God sent him, he sent John the Baptist to bear witness to Light who was God’s Son. Now that witness had a purpose: that people believed in the Light (the person of Jesus), which also means that they trusted in him and followed him.

 This Light was bringing light upon everybody, but only (truly) on those who accepted him. Those that accepted Jesus for who He said he was, received the right to be children of God. Until that time, however, the earth had been full of God’s creatures, but not God’s children (since Adam had sinned). Those who became God’s children were not born from the will of flesh – in other words, they were not born from natural relations from a marriage, or from the power of blood, an old belief, nor were they born from sexual desire. It is clear that Jesus the Light causes a birth to happen for the person who believes in him. Therefore, the “Light” is a person, and simultaneously this same Person leads us to his deeds and teachings.

 Long ago, there were street lamplighters that went about the city streets. Once, somebody wrote the following about one of those people: "I was sitting in the gloamin' (the twilight, in other words,) and a man passed the window. He was a lamp­lighter. He pushed his pole into the lamp and lighted it. Then he went to another and another. Now I couldn't see him. But I knew where he was by the lights as they broke out down the street, until he had left a beautiful avenue of light."

"Now I couldn't see him." No, but his light could be seen. And that was the important thing. It was the lamplighter's business to light the lamps, not to make himself seen. What matters it, if people take little notice of you? The important thing is to make them take notice of your light. You do not need to seek to be seen of men, but you do need to shine that men may see. "Let your light so shine that men may see your good works"—not you.

"But I knew where he was by the lights as they broke out down the street." Can people tell where you are by the light you kindle? Can they tell what you stand for?

God gave us his Light, his Son, so that we would have life and spread the Light to others. Are we, however, thankful for that gift? Does Jesus, the Light shine through us to others, or are we doing the shining?

Praise God that we have a “Lighted” road by which we travel this life. We do not need to get confused about what road is the right spiritual way. Not to mention, also, that outside of Jesus Christ, there is neither salvation, hope, nor light for mankind. Therefore, let’s give glory to God the Father who did not leave us in darkness but gave us Jesus to help us find our way back to him (the Father).

Today, if you have not found your way back to him, if you have not fully turned back, hear the call of the Son of God who says to you, ““Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” For it is a joy to follow Jesus the Light, even if his light exposes our sins. It is better to surrender our sins and burdens to him rather than carry them in our darkness and find ourselves in hell one day, after we have walked this life completely lost.

We are thankful to God that he sent us Jesus, so that we could find our way back to relationship with him. In this dark world, God gave us Jesus as light. God Bless you All. Amen.