

# “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (Jn.1:5)

Whenever Jesus taught a spiritual truth, His listeners interpreted it in a material or physical way. That is, they were unable to comprehend the light. John introduces what will become a major theme in his Gospel: the opposition of light and darkness.

## DARKNESS

[Gk. *skotia*]

- The condition of all things in the world.
- In the spiritual sense darkness describes both the state and works of a person.
- The ‘darkness’ in John is not only absence of light, but active evil (Jn 3:19; 8:12; 12:35, 46; 1Jn.1:5,6; 2:8,9,11).
- The human intellect, even in its fallen state, is an awesome work of God, but it lies in darkness until it has been illuminated by the Holy Spirit. John takes the Fall of man for granted.

### All are Sinners [at birth]

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rm.5:12)



### All are in Darkness [at birth]

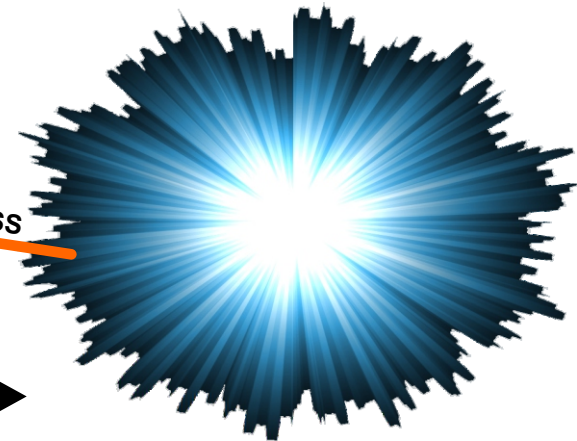
“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness” (Jn.12:46) See also Ephesians 5:8.

**BRIEF**  
 >> Hostile to the light  
 >> Stands for those who hate good  
 >> Represents wilful ignorance of the truth

## LIGHT

[Gk. *phos*]

- Light makes sight possible or makes things visible.
- “Shineth” [Gk. *phaino*] is in the present tense indicating that this supernatural light continually shines in the darkness. The light has gone forth continuously and without interruption from the beginning until now.
- The light is not only revelation looking back to physical creation, but looking forward to spiritual salvation.



LIGHT SHINING IN DARKNESS

DARKNESS & LIGHT CONTRASTED

- In every NT figurative use, darkness is contrasted with light.
- The light of Jesus Christ is revealing. That is, it penetrates the darkness and shows us what has always been there. Unbelievers hate the light because they do not want their deeds to be exposed (Jn 3:19-20).
- Darkness does not merely behave negatively, it hates the light (Ep.6:12). Darkness of the world as a hostile power, which actively resists the light and refuses to accept it (Jn.3:19-20).
- “Comprehended” [Gk. *katalambano*] — The word can have two meanings, much like our word 'grasp'. It can mean (1) to comprehend or grasp mentally, or (2) it can mean to overcome or take hold of something in the sense of mastering it physically. John loves to use double-meanings of words in his Gospel. Unbelievers did not comprehend Christ’s true identity and tried to conquer him. The light will not lose against the darkness! The darkness cannot comprehend the Light, unless Jesus opens their blind eyes to see (Jn.6:37).