

John 1:3-5

God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Background Notes

The theme of the Gospel of John is "**Jesus Christ as the Son of God**," emphasizing that Jesus is fully God. John's purpose in writing was not just to state this truth, but to encourage belief in it. In John 20:30-31, John explicitly states his goal: to lead readers to believe Jesus is the Son of God, and by believing, they will have eternal life in His name. John includes many key gospel verses, such as John 3:16, 3:36, and 14:6, which highlight the way to salvation through belief in Jesus.

Teaching Points

1. Christ created everything.

Verse 3 says that Jesus created everything. One might ask, "Wait, didn't **God** create everything?" Yes, Jesus is God! As the Son of God, He was the Agent of Creation. This truth is also supported in Hebrews 1:2 and Colossians 1:16, which affirm that Jesus created all things, both visible and invisible. Though some believe life arose from time and chance, Psalm 33:6-9 highlights that God created everything simply by His word. Jesus, the Son of God, is the Creator of all things.

2. Christ is the only source of light and life.

Verse 4 emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the source of both physical and spiritual life. The original Greek word "zoe," used here, refers to spiritual life, not just physical existence. Jesus is the only source of spiritual life, offering understanding, guidance, and insight into God's ways. Without Him, we walk in spiritual darkness. When we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, we gain both spiritual life and light.

3. The light of Christ is more powerful than darkness.

Verse 5 highlights that when Jesus came, most of the world did not recognize Him or understand His purpose. Even today, many still fail to grasp the significance of Jesus. Despite rejection, the Light continues to shine. Christianity grew despite opposition from the Jews and the Roman Empire. The Light of Christ is still shining today, more powerful than any darkness.

Practical Application

1. We don't have to be afraid of the dark.

This truth applies both physically and spiritually. We teach our children not to fear physical darkness because God protects us. As they grow, we also teach them not to fear spiritual darkness, knowing that the Light of Christ is more powerful.

As a Christian, you carry the Light of Christ within you. It's your responsibility to let it shine in your community, workplace, or school. Remember that darkness cannot overcome the Light. Don't be afraid to shine, even in dark places. As Matthew 5:16 says, *"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."*