

Now this is the gospel message we have heard from him and announce to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5 NET

The gospel message is expressed in a number of ways, without contradiction, by the New Testament writers. Jesus proclaimed the gospel in terms of the nearness of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:15). Paul defined the gospel in terms of the death and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor 15:1-9). The apostle John gives a unique expression to the gospel message. God is *light*, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

When John condenses the gospel message into "God is light," he highlights a particular aspect of the nature of God and the gospel. First, the gospel is revelation. John begins his letter: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us" (1 John 1:1-2 ESV). In the gospel "the life was made manifest." The apostles proclaimed "the eternal life, which was with the Father." In other words, with the appearing of Jesus Christ, immortality is brought to light (2 Tim 1:10).

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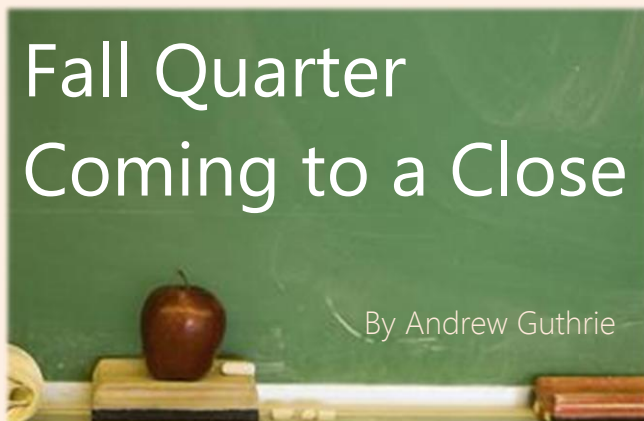
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This Week in Church History with Pastor Charlie

Light is also descriptive of the fellowship that the gospel brings. The message was proclaimed "so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3). However, if one claims to have this fellowship but continues to walk in darkness, he is a liar and does not practice the truth (1 John 1:6). Fellowship with God means walking in the light. We may immediately think that walking in light means walking in sinless perfection. However, while light certainly denotes purity and holiness, verses 7-10 show what John really has in mind. The following is a slight paraphrase.

If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another and we are cleansed from all sin by the blood of Jesus (v. 7). This is gospel fellowship. John writes so that we may not sin (1 John 2:1). However, if we *deny* that we have sin, we deceive ourselves, the truth is not in us, and we make God a liar (vv. 8, 10). Yet, if we *confess* our sin, God is just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (v. 9). *Those who walk in darkness conceal their sin, while those who walk in the light confess their sins and receive forgiveness.*

So much more could be said. "God is light" is a simple statement with profound and far reaching implications. One of those implications is that fellowship with God and with His children means a life of transparency; we confess our sins and God is just to forgive and cleanse us of all sin by the blood of Jesus Christ.



By Andrew Guthrie

This quarter is done and over with! Do you feel a sense of accomplishment? I know I do. Personally, in regards to homework, this has been my best quarter yet. Finishing homework has always been a struggle for me. Getting homework in on time was like trying to rush from one end of Sacramento to another in 10 minutes! Final projects and research papers were sometimes never even completed. This quarter has been more productive than anticipated, and it gives me a sense that I can continue with this new-found study habit.



God's Eye View

By Jordan Hulog

Yahweh is all that matters. Everything that exists is because Yahweh has not only created (brought into existence) and sustained it, but also invented (designed) it. This idea of inventing the universe is inherent in our explanation of Him being the Creator; however, it may also serve as a reminder that He is Sovereign too. That is, He was not just the "builder" of the "house," but the architect who drafted the plans, the plumber, electrician, roofer, framer, and painter. His idea, stemming from no other imagination, source, or inspiration than His own awesome glory, was made a reality by the power that He always has possessed. For because He authored time, He neither had to look into the past nor the future in order to see the outcome of existence as we know it.

If you will consent to poetic license:

God looked within Himself and saw a race that was compatible to Him; one that He would create in His own likeness—even with the faculty of speech (cf. John 1:1). This race would depend on Him for virtually all their needs.

Many students may have a similar story, but we all feel a "weight" being lifted our shoulders as we prepare for next quarter. The winter quarter should be great. The classes are excellent, and the professors have the students even more excited than ever. One thing to keep in mind as we go through the next quarter is Colossians 3:23. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men" (NIV). This is why we are here at Bible college: to learn to serve God. Our training should be just as important as the actual ministry we serve in now or will serve in.

The winter quarter has much in store for us. It's only natural that we give our very best effort because we are serving God through everything we do. I know that when we are faithful to complete the task that God has given us, He will reward us in ways we have not yet experienced. The winter quarter is going to be EPIC. Let's be EPIC too!

He would walk with them and communicate with them. When, inevitably, they turn their backs on His loving kindness, He forgives them and ushers the scapegoat. He sees within Himself the beautiful potential, at a dramatic presentation of His love, to have even the ugliest of transgressors reconciled to His side.

Behold, for He sees that entering into this creation is the only means to the end that He desires. Though a risky move, His love compels him to act in the humblest of ways. Thus, God dies. And for only three days in history can Nietzsche's words "God is dead" be said to prevail. For at the end of three dark days and three long nights the Son is resurrected once and forevermore, united with His Father as the author of new life, and a victor over the enemy which first stole His creation from Him—Death.

What good is a long life if man is but vapor in comparison to God? If man's righteousness is as filthy rags, how futile still are *all* the accomplishments of mankind? "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Mat. 16:26) While we do not store up for ourselves earthly treasures or pursue vanity, we run the race "in such a way as to get the [heavenly] prize" (1 Cor. 9:24). If "a man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work" (Ecc. 2:24), so be it. Life is too long not to find satisfaction while eternity is too close not to focus on it. Therefore, realize that Sovereign God has seen the end from the beginning and has known you intimately. Intimacy, however, is two-fold—to know and be known. God is simply waiting for you to surrender so that He can reveal Himself to you. Heaven is the last place a person begins to work on a relationship with God.

Fired Up?

By Paulina Quesada

Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love covers all offenses.

Proverbs 10:12 NLT

I recently experienced a confrontation with another person. What could have turned into a strife-filled conflict was instead a situation used by the Lord to teach me a valuable lesson.

This individual was behaving in an arrogant and rude manner. Let me just assure you that this egotistical, abrupt offending behavior had no merit or value. Immediately the Holy Spirit showed me that this individual was seeking attention and was dealing with constant internal strife. His self-destructive behavior was heartbreaking to witness, and I realized that my brother had somehow taken a wrong turn and was heading opposite from God's will. As I stood in disbelief, **the Lord spoke to me quietly and told me to not be offended and to speak to him in love.** Instead of getting all fired up, I chose to follow the Lord's instruction.

Hatred and bitterness release poison into your system and you only harm yourself. The other person is not affected by your responding in anger. However, that reactionary emotional outburst will hinder you from growing and experiencing the abundant life Jesus came to give. No matter what the offense, a word spoken out of God's love covers all. Imagine that.

After it was all over, I went into my prayer closet and prayed for my brother. I also sought the Scriptures for comfort because my Spirit was grieved by my fellow student's behavior. After I finished praying, I thanked God that He had given me overwhelming peace and the ability to react in humbleness.

I have learned to follow the loving instructions of our Lord, and not the prideful teachings of man or their evil examples. I asked God why people behave in a way that is not pleasing to Him. I felt in my Spirit that He replied that **in most situations a person will often define where their limits are as to how, or if, he or she will receive or give love. True love has no limits. It is only our application of love, or our lack of application of love, that puts limits upon it.**

Many of us are at different levels in our walk with Christ. Some of us are seasoned Christians while others are new to Christ. In life, we come across individuals who will try their best to steal our joy by trying to rattle our emotions. No matter what offenses come our way, forgiveness should be applied in every aspect of our kingdom living. When someone has offended us or wronged us in any way, we have the power to cover it up with love: pure unconditional love. It is the kind of love that God shows us. His love covers all transgressions.

I believe God pours His love into us continually, so that we always have enough to extend to others. We must give love, even when we think they do not deserve it. Remember, we have done nothing to deserve the love God gives us. He just gives it to us because He is love. That is His nature. It is my prayer that we grow to be like Him and love others, even when they offend us.

Have you been offended recently? Think about the person who offended you and think of some way you can show that person love. How does it make you feel to think of doing a kind act for someone who has wronged you? In spite of how you feel, take the action you need to take to cover the offense with love.

Only God's enduring love is the solution to all situations. He can help us overcome and break the chains of fear and hatred, but more importantly He helps us to forgive and rebuild. If we change our ways, then God is faithful to restore us and perhaps even to restore what we have destroyed.

This Week in Church History

With Pastor Charlie

November 7

680: The third Council of Constantinople (6th ecumenical council) opened. The conclusion of the council was that Jesus has two wills as well as two natures (divine and human), and that those two wills did not conflict with or strive against each other. It thus refuted the heresy of *monothelism*, which held that Jesus Christ had only one (divine) will.



Third General Council of Constantinople
- Harun Yahya

1793: During the French Revolution, "Christianity" was abolished and "Reason" was deified. As many as 2,000 churches were afterward destroyed throughout France.

1847: Birthdate of Will L. Thompson, the American songwriter who left the Church two enduring hymns: "*Jesus is All the World to Me*" and "*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*."



1483: Birthdate of Martin Luther, the primary leader of the Protestant Reformation, in Eisleben, Germany.

1871: Following seven months of searching, foreign correspondent to the *New York Herald*, Henry M. Stanley, succeeded at last in locating Scottish missionary David Livingstone in Ujiji, Central Africa. Stanley prefaced his encounter with these famous words: "*Dr. Livingstone, I presume.*"



1977: Pope Paul VI ended the automatic excommunication imposed on divorced American Catholics who remarried.

November 8

1837: Mount Holyoke Seminary in Massachusetts was established. It was the first US college founded for women.

November 9

1836: Birthdate of Samuel Hill, a co-founder of the *Gideons*, a Christian organization that distributes the Scriptures. The Gideons have placed over 12 million Bibles and 100 million New Testaments.

1837: British philanthropist Moses Montefiore became the first Jew to be knighted in England.

1938: The worst peacetime persecution of German Jews took place as Nazi thugs led a "spontaneous" campaign of terror. During that night 267 synagogues were plundered, 7,500 Jewish shops were wrecked, 91 Jews were killed, and 20,000 others were arrested and sent to concentration camps. It was afterward known as "*Kristallnacht*" ("the Night of Broken Glass") because of the many thousands of broken windows.

November 10

461: This is the day "Leo the Great" died. Saint Leo was the Bishop of Rome from 440 to 461 and is considered by most scholars to have been the first bishop to speak for the entire Christian church. In other words, he was the first "real" Pope and was one of the greatest leaders of the early Church.

November 11

1215: The Fourth Lateran Council was convened by Pope Innocent III. This council defined "*transubstantiation*," the Catholic belief that during communion (the Eucharist), the bread and wine change into the actual body and blood of Christ.

1620: The "Mayflower Compact" was signed by the 41 Puritans among the passengers of the *Mayflower*. The Compact comprised the first written American constitution.

1793: Five months after setting sail for India, the great English missionary William Carey reached Calcutta.

2010: November 11 is Veterans Day in the United States. Pastor Charlie (a Vietnam veteran) and Dr. Funk and Professor Schmidt are available to be taken to lunch. (HUGE extra credit can be earned! Of course, it is quarter break)

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Union Gospel Mission Outreach



Speaker: Minister Danny Arroyo

November 19, 2010 | 7:30-8:30 PM

Come help us overcome the devil and lead multitudes to Jesus!

Contact Epic office today at:
916-348-4689

-Or-

Minister Jose Rodriguez at:
916-534-5689



Worship Lead By: Pastor Michael Revell with
New Covenant Fellowship Worship Team

Union Gospel Mission
400 Bannon St.
Sacramento CA, 95814
www.ugmsac.com

MEXICO MISSIONS TRIP EXPEDITION: BAJA - November 14-20



This trip is being coordinated through StudentReach. Participants will get an equal mix of hard work, enrichment and fun during this StudentReach expedition. The Baja mission will involve building houses for needy families who are among the poorest of the poor, community clean-up and working with orphanages in the area. Throughout the week there will also be leadership and team building lessons. During free time, activities will include going to the beach, hiking and campground fun. The cost is \$350 from the San Diego International Airport. Contact Pastor Karl Hus here at EPIC for more information.

Church History

Continued from page 4

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November 12

1701: The Carolina Assembly passed the Vestry Act making the Church of England the official religion of the Carolina Colony. (Strong opposition by Quakers and other resident Nonconformists forced the colony's leaders to revoke their legislation two years later.)

1936: The Oakland Bay Bridge opened. (Not Church History, but an interesting Northern California fact.)

November 13

354: Birthdate of Saint Augustine of Hippo, the *greatest* of the Early Latin Church Fathers. Of his many writings, two have endured: "Confessions" describes the circumstances leading to his conversion to the Christian faith, and "The City of God," which is a Christian view of the sacking of Rome by the Visigoths in the year 410.



St. Augustine of Hippo

Thank you Volunteers!

For serving you so faithfully all quarter. The next time you see one of the EPIC snack bar volunteers, please give them a BIG THANK YOU!

Mark your Calendar:

Celebrate Christmas in the Round!

Friday, December 3 at 7:00 pm.

All students, faculty, staff, family and friends of EPIC are invited for a delightful evening of music dessert and fun.

Field Ministry Reports are past due.

Turn them in to your Academic Advisor ASAP.



EPIC Soccer

Do you like playing soccer? How about INDOOR SOCCER? If you are interested in playing on a co-ed indoor soccer team, contact Nathan Colburn, Box 182. The ISA2000 indoor soccer arena is at 4670 Aldona Lane, off Auburn Blvd. The winter 8-game season is starting in November. Slots are available for Saturdays, but we need to move quickly to assure a spot. The cost will vary according to number of participants. You may also contact Prof. Colburn for more information at tcolburn@epic.edu.

Winter Quarter Registration

Now open! Invite your friends and family to check out your favorite Bible college, and learn more about the EPIC way of training. Prospective students can contact the office at 916-348-4689 for more information or sit in on a class and chapel with you—to learn first hand how to make an EPIC difference in their world.



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