

Text: Genesis 1:1-5

Theme: Light through darkness

Outline

1. How do we see ourselves?
2. How do we see ourselves because of God's work?
3. New Self in Christ

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation is Old Testament reading of Genesis chapter one verses one through five.

Boys, and girls, I pray that you are doing well today. What is this? Right, it is my hand. I also have here a bottle of water. What happens to my hand when I move it behind the water? It gets bigger. It changes shape. It is still my hand but it looks different because of the water and the light. Scientists call it refraction. How the light hit's the water changes how you see my hand. It is still my hand but it looks different. Today our text talks about everything being different. God created everything from nothing. The very first thing He creates is light. How does God, though His creation of light make us look different? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

1. How do we see ourselves?

In the beginning there was nothing, nothing but an empty pit black void and complete darkness as well as some water. If you had been there, you would have seen nothing. It would be the same as looking down into a deep lake. A lake so deep that you cannot see the bottom. You cannot make out any of the rocks or animals underneath. Who knows dangers that lake holds? What could be lurking in that water? Anything could be. The same as our hands Infront of water changes because of the light, so

too does our thoughts of ourselves when we consider light's opposite, darkness.

When we consider ourselves, all too often, all we see is pitch black darkness. We see it in the world around us. How many in the world misuse our text for today, attempting to insert the theory of evolution. They do this to strip God of His almighty power. When they say, Surely God could not have created the world or if He did, then He must have made use of evolutionary processes. They attempt to take ultimate power from God, deny Him as the Creator, and put themselves in His place as creators rather than creatures. We see the darkness of our sins when we misuse the created world for our own gain. Cutting down trees for lumber in logging and not replanting them, the displacement of endangered animals to build another factory, housing, or mini mall. The push to eliminate fossil fuels because of their harm to the environment. When we are not good stewards of God's creation, we show our darkness in thought, word, and deed.

2. How do we see ourselves because of God's work?

Yet, in the midst of the darkness, God is present. He acts to dispel the darkness. He says, "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. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹ Into the midst of this watery darkness, God brings forth light to shine upon the darkness. He dispels the darkness and calls the light good. God creates everything purely because of His love. He does not have to create, but in love He chooses to create. He creates through His Word by which all things are made. His Spirit broods over the water. The same verb is used for the action of a mother eagle hovering over her nest, providing for her young, and protecting them. The life-giving Spirit of God was active at

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Ge 1:3–5). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

the creation, preserving what God had created and preparing the universe for what God had in mind. The work of creation, then, is a work in which all the members of the Trinity share.² He calls the light which dispels the darkness good.

In love as well God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh for you. For you, Jesus is baptized. He who is sinless, identifies with you in your sins that He might take them away from you, that you might be fully identified with Him as a child of the Heavenly Father. The same voice that says, "Let there be light." Says, "You are my beloved Son. With you I am well pleased." The same Spirit which hovered over the waters at creation, deigns to rest upon the Son. Jesus goes to the cross, bearing your sins and the full punishment for them, bleeding and dying. That through His own water and word of Holy Baptism, you can see yourself differently.

3. New Self n Christ

Because of the Work of Christ, you can see yourself differently. Not as one stained by the darkness of sin, but as one whom God has given His light to. He has broken forth and shined upon your darkness. He has saved you through water and the Word of Holy Baptism to make you His dear beloved child. The same as light can illumine a dark lake, make it clear as crystal, and let you see all the dangers lurking within the beauty. So the light of Christ in you shows you all the dangers of your sins so that you can avoid them and put them aside through His Holy Spirit. You are baptized into Christ, the light of the world. God the Father calls you His beloved.

Even greater, You shine His light to others still in darkness through your thoughts, words, and deeds, that they too may see their Creator and use wisely the gifts that they have been given. You do this when you care for God's creation as His creature. When you plant a tree after cutting one

² Jeske, J. C. (2001). [*Genesis*](#) (2nd ed., p. 12). Northwestern Pub. House.

down, caring for animals that have been displaced, when you are conscious of how you use their fuel without going overboard. Through these actions, as well as many more, we give praise to God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.