

# Has the Light Come On?

## Introduction

Thomas Edison, in the late 1800s, was the inventor of the first practical and marketable electric light bulb and the electrical structures to support it. He tried hundreds of elements for the filament before finding one satisfactory enough to apply for a patent. His invention literally lit up the world! But not like the Lord did in creation, Christ and Christianity! And **God's was not trial and air – He got it right the first time!**

**II Corinthians** – 4:1Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2but have renounced the **hidden things of dishonesty**, not walking in craftiness, nor **handling the word of God deceitfully**; but by **manifestation** of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3But if our gospel be **hid**, it is **hid** to them that are lost: 4in whom the god of this world hath **blinded** the minds of them which believe not, lest the **LIGHT** of the **glorious** gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should **shine** unto them. 5For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6For God, who commanded the **LIGHT** to shine out of **darkness**, hath **shined** in our hearts, to give the **LIGHT** of the **knowledge** of the **glory** of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Right foundational thinking starts with the Biblical account of the creation of everything! The Genesis** One account that is **elaborated upon throughout the rest of Scripture** (even unto the Revelation).

What Paul is saying here in II Corinthians is a great place with which to start this conference – “The Relevance of Genesis” to our every day life. Notice in v. 6 Paul compared the first day of creation when God spoke light into existence to when someone gets saved! ***This is a dramatic picture indeed!***

**Genesis1:1** – In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters**. 3And **God said, Let there be light: and there was light**. 4And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

If Genesis 1 is not literal and sudden in nature, neither is the regeneration, the new birth of a man's soul! As the Spirit of God brooded across the waters of that first day so He does the heart of a sinner bringing **conviction**, then **comprehension** and finally **conversion** (John 16:8-11; 3:3-8; Titus 3:4-7)!

I remember one of my first days at Bible school in the balcony of the gym where Dr. Oldham was conducting his class of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible). I was 19 years old and still adjusting to life in the big city, being on my own for the first time and in awe of some of my professors. We were very early in the course and Dr. Oldham was lecturing on the first day of creation...

**II Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

The physical light of creation, the original creation, is an illustration of the spiritual light (knowledge of truth relevant to relating to God) that accompanies the new creation.

**John 1:1** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2The same was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4In him was life; and the life was the **light** of men. 5And the **light** shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the **Light**, that all men through him might believe. 8He was not that **Light**, but was sent to bear witness of that **Light**. 9That was the true **Light**, which **lighteth** every man that cometh into the world.”

There is a face to the glory of God – it is Christ!

**Hebrews 1:1** – God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3who **being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person**”

Think of the **suddenness** of the appearance of that light on the first day of creation. Think also of its **scope** – worldwide. And think of the **sequence** – first darkness then light.

I am as Paul today, here to renounce the hidden things of dishonesty...the walking in craftiness, and the handling of the word of God deceitfully. And I am going to do what he did. I am going to repudiate such by manifestation of the truth!

I do this because the gospel is hidden and Satan has blinded the minds of men to the gospel through these means. He does this by keeping the light from “coming on within them” as in the first day of creation. *Connect the dots.*

How is the gospel hid and how does Satan blind the unbelieving?

Colossians 1:16abc, 2:8 – “by him [the Son] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth...Beware lest any man spoil you **through philosophy** and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

**Philosophy:** “an overall vision of or attitude toward life and its purpose by chiefly speculative rather than observational means.”

Someone has said about humanistic philosophy, “Philosophy is as a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that is not there!”

## I. **Misrepresentation.**

Many of the skeptics of yesteryear and today view Christianity as what they see in the RCC – especially historically. They view it according to the religious charlatans of the recent past and of today who were on the radio and now more often on television. If Christianity was what these have made it out to be, most of us would reject it too!

The world sees numerous “Christian denominations” and is disheartened wondering why so much fragmentation. In actuality they can most simply be divided into two camps – those that improperly teach salvation attained by works or wholly by grace.

More definitively, there is Catholicism, Protestantism (Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists – Holiness Groups/Pentecostalism/Charismatics) and Baptists.

Religion got in the way of the Jews perceiving Christ when He came the first time! Christ, who was the very gospel being lived out before Israel for 33 ½ years, was largely missed! They had made the Old Testament ritual an end in themselves rather than a preview of who Christ was and what He was going to do. They had also altered the ritual to where it no longer accurately depicted Christ.

Think of the “Where is Waldo?” illustrations where a very busy background is in place and Waldo is hidden somewhere therein and you have to find him. This is how it is for the world when they try to discern the true gospel, Biblical message at-large and genuine Christianity!

## **II. Misalignment.**

Bible ignorance – not knowing its basic structure, how its teachings are interdependent, and relevant background aspects – fosters indifference by pastors and Christians in general to not duly consider the importance of the Biblical account of creation. Creation is as a reference point for all right thinking.

For example, most do not realize that Moses wrote Genesis some 2500 years after creation in order to reorient the Jews to the truth about the origin of the universe, where sin came from, the true way of salvation, the flood event, the reason for different languages and ethnic groups (there is no such thing as races – all men come from one – Acts 17:26). This was needed because Israel had largely adopted the Egyptian world view after having been in their land nearly 400 years (Ezekiel 20:5-10ff).

## **III. Misinformation.**

The world hears of evolution most often not as a theory but as fact. Of course what they generally do not hear is that there is several different kind of evolutionary thought (gradualism, punctuated equilibrium, macro and micro evolution, and so forth). They most often do not hear of the repudiation of so-called “new proofs” of evolution usually within weeks of their “discoveries.”

What many do is take on the idea of theistic evolution – the idea that God used evolution to bring about His creation. They do not realize the connectedness of the Biblical record and that it requires a literal interpretation unless it is obviously using figurative language.

## **Summary**

The light of life came on some 6000 years ago and there is no need for endless trial and error in finding the meaning to life. Its brightness was greatly increased some 2000 years ago.

The world, in general, follows false lights that at best flicker in the night and then go out at inopportune times leaving the masses in the dark!

In the light of creation, God’s word and Christians, look to Christ! Psalm 119:130; John 8:12; Matthew 5:14; Philippians 2:14-16.