

Sermon Outline

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS | Nick O'Neil

Bible Readings: John 1:14-18 (pg 1509) & 2 Corinthians 3:7-4:6 (p.1646)

1. Knowing God and the Holy Spirit
 - a. Four people you might know

 - b. Differences:
 - i. Reason/the Mind v. Experience/the Heart and Emotions

 - ii. Low view of the Spirit v. High View of the Spirit

 - c. A Quick Recap: God's Letter to the Corinthians and the World (delivered by Paul)

2. What we learn about Knowing God and the Spirit in 2 Corinthians 3:1-4:6:
 - a. Revelation is an Act of Grace Towards the Spiritually Blind
 - i. Darkness

 - ii. Veiled Glory in Moses
 1. Partial

 2. Death-Bringing

 - This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. (John 3:19; c.f. Eph. 4:18-19)*

 - b. God Graciously Reveals His Glory in Christ
 - i. No-one has seen God, but...
(John 1:14-18)

 - ii. Glorious Words: Christ, the Gospel, Scripture

 - iii. Reading the Bible with Wonder

c. God the Spirit Enlightens Blind Hearts and Minds to Behold God's Glory

i. Freedom from the Spirit

Hence there is none of them who have gained any experience by the observation of God's dealings with them but shall, although they know not the ways and methods of the Spirit's operations by the word, yea, can say, with the man unto whom the Lord Jesus restored his sight, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." (John Owen, *The Holy Spirit: The Helper*)

ii. Reading the Bible in Dependence

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)