**"Post Tenebras Lux"**

**1 Peter 2:1-17**

 ***Overview***  Light is one of the most fascinating aspects of God’s creation. It is as common

 as the air we breathe and yet complicated enough to require electromagnetism,

 quantum mechanics and the theory of relativity to explain it.

 Light from stars tells us about the universe. Light from the sun warms our planet.

 Light allows us to see the world around us (in color). Light allows plants to create

 chemical energy. Light can cut (like a laser) or transmit data (think fibre-optics).

And those are just the physical properties. In Scripture, light also can refer to spiritual enlightenment and salvation. Jesus is “the Light of the world”. And what’s more, by His grace and power we now get to inhabit the Kingdom of Light!

 ***Getting Started*** *Let there be light!!*



1. Describe a time when you were afraid of the dark.

 2. What is your favorite color? NB: You can pick different favorite colors for different things (e.g. paint color for a room, color of a flower, color you like to wear, etc.).

3. What inspires you the most.... sunlight, moonlight, or starlight?

 ***The Text*** Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—5you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house c to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,

a chosen and precious cornerstone,

and the one who trusts in him

will never be put to shame.” g

7Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,” j

8and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble

and a rock that makes them fall.” k

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

13Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. 17Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

 1 Peter 2:1-17 (NIV)

 ***The Video (optional)*** *“Post Tenebras Lux” – 1 Peter 2:1-17* - by Kyle Corbin, Nov. 22/20 (view at www.immanuelonline.ca)



 NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 ***Understanding***

 1. In this passage, Peter outlines several things that we are to do in order to live in the light. Which of these do you see in verses 1 and 11? In what sense are we “foreigners and exiles” (verse 11)?



 2. What practice is encouraged in verse 2? If, as believers, we are saved, how do we “grow up” in our salvation (see also Eph. 4:11-16, 1 Thess. 3:12, Hebrews 6:1, 2 Peter 3:18).

 3. List all the ways that the people of God are described in verses 4-10. What specific things are God’s people called to do according to this instruction?

 4. How does Peter direct us to act towards those who are may be opposed to us (and our message) (see verses 12,17)? How will such people glorify God when God visits (and when is that going to happen)?

 5. What should our conduct be like towards those in authority (verse 13-16)? What are the different human authorities in our lives? What is the intended effect of our behavior on such authorities?

 6. In verse 17, Peter gives instructions for the way we are to treat various people in our lives (and God). How are these instructions the same? How are they different (and why)?

 ***Applying***

 1. What strategies can we employ to fight against the desires that wage war against us? How do you push back against the darkness? Consider James 4:1-10 and Romans 7:21-25.

 2. Give an example of “pure spiritual milk” (verse 2). How can you develop a craving for it? How have you tasted (i.e. experienced) that the Lord is good?

 3. Which of the characteristics of God’s people listed in verses 4-10 is the most meaningful to you right now? Explain.

 4. What kind of works do you think God uses to prompt our opponents to glorify God (verse 12)? Have you ever seen an instance of this happening?

 5. What do you think is the prevailing attitude of our society towards those in authority? Why do you think this prevailing attitude exists? Do you think believers in general are any different?

 6. Should our motives for submitting to authority be the same or different from society (NB: recall verse 13)?

 7. Should we always submit and obey what our human institutions tell us to do? When is it OK to not submit (if ever)? (Review Matthew 5:38-48, Acts 5:27-32).

 BONUS QUESTION: Given what you have seen in this study, would you say it’s OK right now to refuse to wear a mask (or to gather in large social gatherings) in opposition to the instructions given by authorities? How should we treat those we disagree with on this issue (and other issues)? Explain.

 8. In the light of what Peter has instructed in this passage, what step(s) will you take in the next 40 days to seek more of God’s light or to shine some of God’s light into someone else’s darkness?

***Memory Verse(s)***

9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.



 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

***Extra Resources***



* *“Post Tenebras Lux” – 1 Peter 2:1-17* - by Kyle Corbin, Nov. 22/20 (view at [www.immanuelonline.ca](http://www.immanuelonline.ca)). How can we be used to bring light into this dark world? Pastor Kyle explains how in this sermon.
* *“Know Who You Are Not”* – by Marshall Segal (article on Dec. 12, 2018 at [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org)). Segal takes a look at 1 Peter 2:9-10, showing us what we are not (so we can understand what we are) in Christ.
* *“The Ministry of Presence”* – (devotional from Tabletalk magazine, found at [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org)). A short devotional reminding us that sometimes being a light simply mean faithfully being there when people need us.