
Classics

Dr Henry Law was born at the Kelshall rectory, in Hertfordshire, on 29 September 1797, the third son of Jane and George H. Law, who was then Bishop of Chester. Law was educated at Eton College and then at Cambridge. He was ordained to the ministry in 1821 and became Dean of Gloucester from 1862 until his death on November 25, 1884.

The following is taken from one of Law's most well-known books, titled "Christ is All: The Gospel in the Pentateuch," first published in 1867. It is reproduced here, edited and formatted by The Krapf Project, 2026, as an example of Christ-centred preaching.

LIGHT

Summary explanation of how Dr Henry Law brings the gospel out of a single word in the Old Testament text.

- First, notice that Dr Law focuses on the gospel. He does not talk about self-help or bring motivational soundbites. His

sermon is full of Scripture.

- Second, Dr Law give some explanation of the Old Testament text.
- Third, Dr Law gives examples of how light is used as an emblem of Jesus and shows us how he connects the text with the rest of Scripture.
- Fourth, Dr Law gives us eight lessons from the word "light" as they apply to Christ.

Introducing the text

"God said, Let there be light: and there was light" Genesis 1:3

The speaker is God, before time began. The voice of omnipotence speaks, and darkness vanished. "God said, let there be light, and there was light." Try to imagine the scene. This world was a huge mass of unarranged material. It had no form, and therefore it had no beauty. It was a vacancy, shrouded by a lifeless and impenetrable void.

From this, the home of mankind would be built. But how will this be done? God could have simply exercised his will, and in one instant, creation would have come into being. But he works by a gradual process. This teaches that patient diligence is the path to all good works.

But what is the first wonder of Creation? It is LIGHT. "God said, let there be light, ' and there was light." It is impossible to know any more than this. There are, however, truths in the Scripture that are linked with light, which are available to us and provide rich Gospel application.

How light is used as an emblem of Jesus

- The Holy Spirit tells us of Jesus, *"That was the true light, which lights every man, which comes*

into the world" (John 1:9).

- Jesus, too, lifts up light as an emblem of himself when he says, "*I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life*" (John 8:12).
- The prophet, speaking of Christ also, sings, "*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light*" (Isaiah 9:2).
- The apostle also, speaking of Jesus, exhorts us to, "*Show forth the praises of Him, who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light*" (1 Peter 2:9).

What then can we learn about Christ from this emblem of light?

First, light is pure. There can be no pollution in light. Snow is brilliant; there is

nothing whiter, but if we step in it, we destroy that brightness. Water sparkles brightly when it is from a spring, but we add impurities when we touch it.

But you can't make light's purity less pure, and it is the same with Christ. When he walked on earth, he was as pure as God in heaven. He passed through a world of sin; he took on the form of the sinner, so that he might bear sin's penalty, but he was never stained by sin. In Bethlehem's manger, He was the holy Child, and he returned to heaven in holy triumph as the holy Conqueror.

Study the essential holiness of Jesus; it is one of the

Dr Law applies Christ, **First**, as our salvation



Second, as our sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:30).

anchors of our hope in the gospel. He

must be as holy as God is holy, or He cannot be our mediator. Jesus is all-sufficient to redeem us because he is co-equal with the Father.

Study Jesus, also as the model of the believer, in conformity to his image: "He that has this hope in Him, purifies himself, even as He is pure" (1 John 3:3).

Second, light is bright. The day is bright when no clouds hide the sun. The future is bright when there are no foreboding problems. And so it is with Christ. He is "the brightness of His [Father's] glory" (Hebrews 1:3). He shines the midday brightness of the Father's attributes. That time is the brightest time, in which the Lord is nearest. That page is the brightest page, in which most of Christ is found. That sermon is the brightest sermon, in which most of Christ is heard. That life is the brightest life, in which most of Christ

is seen.

Third, light is lovely. Beauty cannot live without light, and so it is with Christ. He is beautiful; "fairer than the children of men"—"the chief among ten thousand"—and "altogether lovely." What fullness of beauty is in that person, who is both God and man! So, too, as light makes lovely, so Christ bestows on all who believe the beauty of salvation.

Fourth, light is free. The wealth of the wealthy cannot buy it. The skill of the skilful cannot produce it. The labour of the working man cannot earn it. Neither can the poverty of the poor exclude them from it. Wherever it comes, it comes freely. And so it is with Christ.

Sinner, do you desire this precious treasure? Open your heart to it, and it is yours. "Come, buy wine and milk, without

money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1). Don't waste time trying to buy him. All your merits are only demerits. Sinner, you must plead misery and take mercy. Lament your darkness, and he will give you his light.

Fifth, light is all-revealing. So long as darkness surrounds us, we move among enemies. A pit opens up at our feet, an arrow is ready on the enemy's bow, and each touch of the world is a stain. When the light dawns, ruin and uncleanness stare us in the face.

And so, it is with Christ. By his light, sin is revealed, lurking in every corner of the heart. The world is a monster that embraces us with filth, and in whose hand is the cup of death.

If you can't discern the defilement of sin and the poison of the world, it is because

light has not visited your conscience. Christ is not in your heart. In the mouth of the believing sinner, there is always this cry, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7).

Christ, the light does not just reveal the enemy and the poison of the world; he reveals himself. He shows his cross—the proof of his love. He shows his blood—the payment for our debts. He draws back the curtains of heaven, and we see a reconciled God and catch glimpses of glory.

Sixth, light brings fruitfulness. In places where the sun does not shine, there is barrenness; vegetation languishes, and trees droop. But notice the change when the sun shines. The fields are soon clothed with plenty. So, it is with Christ. In his absence, the heart is overgrown with every kind of weed. But when his light

shines in the heart, the seeds of grace bud and the tree of faith becomes fruitful.

Seventh, light brings heat. Without the light of the sun, the earth becomes a cold, rocky pavement, and our soil would be as hard as ice. So, the heart without Christ is cold as ice. But when he enters, a glow is kindled, which can never die. Once Christ is seen and loved in the heart, there is warmth. Warmth in the heart of the preacher will be fire in his lips, and hardened congregations will melt into holy zeal.

Eight, light brings joy. For three days, Egypt was all blackness, and everything stopped. It was a terrible time. In Paul's voyage, for many days neither sun nor stars appeared, and it was a terrible time. But far more terrible is the soul without Christ.

The happy morning of light cannot begin until Christ lifts up the light of his countenance, which has no night. Present light is but the morning-star of coming glory. Here on earth, mists will sometimes rise, but heaven is a cloudless day. Then in bodies of light, and robes of light, the redeemed sit down in a city of light, *"which has no need of the sun nor of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of the Lord does light it, and the Lamb is the light thereof"* (Revelation 21:23).

Conclusion

Sinner, do not be deceived, reason is a mere candle, which will not lead to heaven. There are many false lights of error. There is only one sun in the sky. So also, there is only one Christ in the Bible—one Christ of the saved.

I ask if your darkness has passed away?

Perhaps you love darkness rather than light, because your deeds are evil. But think how fearful the broad road really is! It goes straight down into the pit of outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth forever. Stop, I beseech you. Will you not turn to "the true light?"

Believer,
you see the
sunny and
happy
spot, which
is your
home. In

your full joy, remember that this home is a place for you to be diligent. Your light has come, so that you may arise and shine. You are a light for others, who may have light through you. It is your duty to reflect the light, as the Christian shows forth Christ—Let there be light; and there will be light.

In conclusion, Dr Law
brings his sermon to a
close by bringing
application both to the
believer and the
unconverted.

