

# “A Ray of Light in a Dark World”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 4, 2025.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible on Wednesday night, I did not give a presentation that was part of a series. It was a single presentation titled “A Ray of Light in a Dark World.” As you will see, the purpose of the presentation (and this article) is to encourage friends to focus upon being a simple light to help people.

## “Let there be light”

It should come as no surprise that light was critical to the creation of the earth.

- Genesis 1:1—In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- Genesis 1:2—Darkness was on the face of the earth.
- Genesis 1:3—God said: “Let there be light” and there was light.
- Genesis 1:4-5—God divided the light from the darkness—calling the light “day” and calling the darkness “night.”
- Genesis 1:11-18—God made two lights —calling the greater light for the day and the lesser light to rule the night.

## Bear witness to light

- John 1:4—In the Word was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 1:5—The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- John 1:6—There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- John 1:7—This man came for a witness to bear witness of the Light.
- John 1:8-9—John was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

## Walk in light

- 1 John 1:5—This is the message that we have heard and do declare: “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”

■ 1 John 1:6—"If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we live a lie and do not practice the truth."

■ 1 John 1:7—"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

### **Love God and love neighbor**

■ Mark 12:28—"Which is the first commandment of all?"

■ Mark 12:30—"You shall love your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength."

■ Mark 12:31—"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

■ Mark 12:31—"There is no other commandment greater than these."

### **Avoid walking in darkness**

The following words do not undo loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength. But the following words stress the need to be loving people.

■ 1 John 2:9—"He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in darkness."

■ 1 John 2:10—"He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling."

■ 1 John 2:11—"He who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness and does not know where he is going—because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

### **Judgment is based upon understanding**

The following words remind us about God's criteria for judgment—and thus should influence us to be kinder toward other people.

■ John 12:46—"The Son of God said: "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."

■ John 12:47—"The Son of God is not judging those who do not understand."

■ John 12:48—"The Son of God is judging those who reject His words—after they understand His words."

We sure like the fact that the Father and Son judge us only when we know better. Maybe we could find it within our heart to be kinder toward those who really don't understand.