

## UNAPPROACHABLE LIGHT

**“who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no-one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might for ever.” (1 Tim 6:16)**

Mere words, of course, are not sufficient to describe God. Even inspired words are insufficient. Words are “finite” and God is not. God’s judgements, for example, are “unsearchable” (Rom. 11:33); and His love surpasses knowledge (Eph. 3:19). No words are adequate to describe God. **1 Tim. 6:13 - 16**, however, does contain a series of words that may help us to see God like a poor reflection in a mirror. Perhaps reflecting on these few words can stimulate our minds and stretch our imaginations. **Vs. 13** reminds us that God is the Giver of life and also points us to Jesus, Who is the “Word of God” (John 1:1). Jesus is the best “Word” we can have to understand God for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in a body (Col. 2:9). **Vs. 14** adds a new dimension by referencing the “appearing of our Lord Jesus”. **Vs. 15** adds still more by reminding us that God is “the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords”. **Vs. 16** goes still deeper by reminding us that God is uniquely “immortal”.

Let us, however, narrow our focus and consider the subject of light. In **vs. 16** we are told that God “lives in unapproachable light”. The implications of this thought are quite profound. Light is a form of energy that is still the subject of debate among the scientists of the world. It is said to travel in tiny invisible waves. These light waves carry microscopic packets of energy called “photons”. It is the photons that are said to stimulate the light sensitive cells in our eyes that enable us to see. Other forms of electromagnetic energy which travel in waves include radio waves, x-rays, microwaves, etc. Remember, however, that no man has seen God at any time (Jn. 1:18).

Until recently the sun was considered the brightest and most intense form of light. In 1960, however, a scientist named Theodore Maiman built a laser. Laser light is produced by flashing ordinary light into a special rod of synthetic ruby. The laser beam is so powerful that it can cut through solid steel, and so accurate that it can be focused on a tiny mirror 238,855 miles away on the surface of the moon. Even laser light, however, does not approximate the essence of God. For God lives in “unapproachable light”.

Light is first mentioned in the Scriptures in Gen. 1:3 when God said, “Let there be light,” and of course, “there was light”. Not only does God dwell in light, He is Light (1 John 1:1). We are also told that Jesus is Light (John 8:12) and that the Scriptures are “light” (Ps. 119:105). But the light of Jesus and the Scriptures is approachable, and the Light of God is not.

I’m sure you have noticed that flowers and trees bend and turn to receive sun light. Please consider that just as the SUN is essential to physical life, so also the SON is essential to spiritual life. God IS approachable through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one Mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5). Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no one can come unto the Father except through Him. But “through Him” we can come boldly into the presence of God (Heb. 10:19).

While we cannot see God directly, “through Jesus” we can behold His glory as in a mirror (2 Cor. 3:18). When we “focus” on Jesus we are “transformed into His image”. As you probably know, our English word “photograph” comes from the Greek words for light (phos) and “writing” (grapho). When the shutter on the camera is opened, light enters into the camera and “writes” an image on the negative. When we open our “hearts and minds” to Jesus the Light of His presence writes His laws there. This is the New Covenant (Heb. 8:10).

We cannot emphasize too strongly that our contact with God Who lives in unapproachable light, is “through” Jesus Christ. It is “through Jesus” that we obtain access by faith into the grace of God (Rom. 8:2). It is “through Jesus” that the day dawns and the morning star arises in our own hearts (2 Pet. 1:19) It is “through Jesus” that the Light of God writes His laws on our minds and hearts. Once this happens, then we also begin to reflect His marvelous light to a world in darkness. Moses put a veil upon his face, but we need not do so. Paul put it like this: **“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18)**