

A person stands in a dark, cavernous space, illuminated by a vertical beam of light from above. The person is silhouetted against the light, which creates a strong contrast with the surrounding darkness. The light beam is the central focus of the image, symbolizing the 'light shining in the darkness' mentioned in the text.

THE GOSPEL OF  
**JOHN**

**The Light Shines  
in the Darkness**

CHAPTER 3:22-36

**“A Victorious Decline”**

## John 3

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people. <sup>23</sup> At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism.

## John 3

<sup>24</sup> (This was before John was thrown into prison.) <sup>25</sup> A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain [Judaic leader] over ceremonial cleansing. <sup>26</sup> So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us."

## John 3

<sup>27</sup> John replied, “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’ <sup>29</sup> It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom’s friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. <sup>30</sup> He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.



**With Jesus at the center of life,  
our need for ego gratification diminishes**



## John 3

<sup>31</sup> “He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else. <sup>32</sup> He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them!

## John 3

<sup>33</sup> Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. <sup>34</sup> For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands.

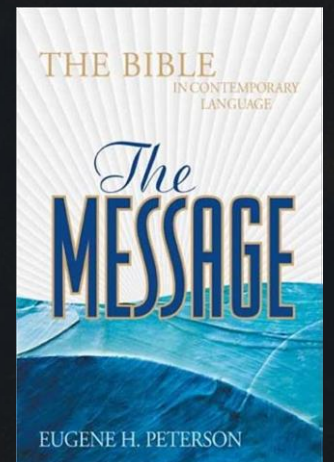


## John 3

<sup>36</sup> And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."

## John 3

<sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son extravagantly. He turned everything over to him so he could give it away - a lavish distribution of gifts. <sup>36</sup> That is why whoever accepts and trusts the Son gets in on everything, life complete and forever!



**With Jesus at the center of life,  
we need less temporal affirmation**



A person stands in a dark space, illuminated by a vertical beam of light that descends from the top of the frame. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking towards the right. The light beam is bright and creates a strong contrast with the surrounding darkness. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.

THE GOSPEL OF  
**JOHN**

**The Light Shines  
in the Darkness**