

**"THE BRIGHT NEW TEACHER!" – JANUARY 31, 2021**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13; MARK 1:21-28**  
**Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

**All kinds of things around us can break us down, tear us down, and wear us down. From the day to day, to the life changing; circumstances and situations can beat us down. How do we get back up? How do you keep going? What raises your spirit, your hope, your energy, your purpose? God raises up Jesus Christ in our midst to raise us up. Even God's people cannot do enough on their own, that is why we needed Christmas, Emmanuel, God with us. God raises us up in Jesus to find heart and spirit, when we thought none was possible. Jesus is God's Bright New Light, our Bright New Teacher, a new authority giving renewed power and hope and grace, to raise us up, to go raise up others, and to raise up the name of Jesus. The best teachers open their students to new epiphanies. The Bright New Teacher is forever opening our heart and soul to the best epiphanies of all, raising us up, to raise up others, to make God first!**

1. The bright New Light comes to us, to be our Bright New Teacher, to raise up for us a new teaching, a new authority, to give us power, hope and grace, even when we get tired, feel broken, feel lost, to raise us up.
  - A. What are the demons, spirits, obstacles, circumstances in your life that tire you, tear you down and distance you from God?
  - B. Where does The Bright New Teacher open you to a new epiphany, giving you hope, strength, courage, staying power? Where have you discovered this new teaching, new authority, new outlook? Are you able to trust God is raising you up? Deuteronomy 8:15,18; 1 Corinthians 8:1; Mark 1:22,27
  
2. God raises up The Bright New Light, our Bright New Teacher, to raise us up through a new teaching, a new authority, new way of doing things, a new revelation, a new truth, a new power, a new hope, God's grace!
  - A. Jesus raises us up, to be who God wants us to be. Jesus gives us heart and spirit when we are not sure where to get it. Mark 1:21-22
  - B. Jesus raises us up to raise up others - to do what God wants us to do. Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; 1 Corinthians 8:1, 9-13

- i. The new prophet, our new teacher and authority, was raised up to raise us up to prophesy, too.
    - ii. The new servant, our new teacher and authority, was raised up to raise us up to serve others, too.
  - C. Jesus raises us up to raise up Christ - to teach and live what we know and believe. Deuteronomy 18:19; 1 Corinthians 8:3-6
    - i. It can be easy to question authority, to be drawn to other authorities, idols. Daily we make choices that pull us closer to or distant us from The Bright New Teacher, the wisdom we know, what we believe.
    - ii. The Bright New Light blesses us to faithfully and confidently announce, lean on, trust, teach, serve and raise up the new authority and new wisdom of Christ.
    - iii. We are to proclaim and raise up and honor God first.
- 3. God gives us The Bright New Light in our Bright New Teacher, The Bright New Authority, a new prophet, a new promise that raises us up in grace! Even the evil spirits knew God was doing something new in Jesus Christ. If the evil spirits and demons knew who Jesus was, what his power could offer, let us much more trust and share the hope and power and grace of The Bright New Light! Mark 1:27-28