

## **“In the Light of the Lord”**

08-16-15

You and I as believers live in the Light of the Lord. This is a blessing given to us by our Baptisms and sustained through the constant work of the Holy Spirit. However, we're called to live in this world now: a dark world full of evil and deceit. Today we're going to reflect on living as people who have the opportunity to bring light to this dark world but aren't overcome by its darkness.

Open to Ephesians 5. The situation we find ourselves in isn't an easy one. Evil and darkness seem to be all around us. Paul gives us some clear words on how we are to act as we live as God's people. Verses 6-7, *“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them.”*

It's so easy to sit and criticize what we see around us and denounce how evil everything is. But as witnesses of the Light of Jesus Christ are we doing anything about it? Unfortunately, instead of standing firm in faith, we sometimes fall into the same patterns and activities we say are evil!

We live in a day where many people say they are 'enlightened' because of their progressive attitudes towards moral issues. The Prophet Isaiah wrote a long time ago, in Isaiah 5:20, *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.”*

As God's people, **We Can't Compromise With Darkness**. We can't sometimes walk like the world and other times walk in the light! Being a Christian is a full-time, 24 hour job! As verse 7 said, partners share in the actions and consequences. We can't share with both sides, we need to only have partnership in the body of Christ! Since we have this wonderful partnership with God, how could we ever become partners with that which belongs to sin and darkness?

Look at verse 8, *“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”* Look at the contrast between what we USED to be and what we ARE now in Christ! Notice he doesn't say **We were IN Darkness, but WERE Darkness!** Sin darkened you and me! But light dispels darkness, and **Jesus is the Light of the World**, so we can walk in that light, and become lights in the world each day!

Look at verses 9-10, *“(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”* You need to make it your business to try to figure out what pleases the Lord--and then DO IT! You need to be in God's Word and focus on His words. As you seek to know God's Will for life, **God's Word Brings Transformation**. Those who live as children of light will be continually trying to figure out what the Will of God is in every situation so that we would please Him rather than disappoint Him.

As we're transformed **We Need to Walk as Children of Light**. Look at verses 14-17, *“for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not*

*as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” Christians don’t die, they sleep, which means they expect to be awoken.

A couple took their young son with them on a trip to Europe where they visited many cathedrals. When they returned home the little boy’s Sunday school teacher asked him, “Did you learn what a saint is?” He remembered the many stained glass windows which depicted the Christian saints and he said, “A saint is a person who the light shines through.”

With Jesus as the Light of the World, our job, as we walk as children of light, is to reflect His light. Verses 11-13, *“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible.”*

If we don’t walk reflecting the Light of Jesus, things really can be dark. So what are the characteristics of those who walk in the Light? The Light produces four fruits.

**Goodness.** This refers to ‘moral excellence’. It’s the same word Paul uses to describe a ‘fruit of the Spirit’ in Galatians 5:22, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.”*

**Righteousness.** This is the idea of living by integrity before God and man. Paul told Timothy to ‘Pursue righteousness’ and John said in 1 John that whoever ‘practices righteousness is born of Him’.

**Truth:** When you live a life of truth, you’re living a life with the absence of deception, falsehood and hypocrisy. We live in a day in which knowledge is constantly growing. Today knowledge doubles every 10 years and printed materials every 15 years. But the truth doesn’t change or get added to! It’s the truth of God’s revealing light!

**Love.** Love is the ultimate fruit. Love transcends everything! Love brought Jesus to earth to save us because of the love God Almighty had for all mankind. From 1 Corinthians 13:13, *“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*

In verse 14, Paul told us **Be Alert. Be Awake!** Stop dreaming that things are right between you and God. Realize that your life is being lived out among the dead. Get up from there and start living for Jesus!

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He didn’t just say, ‘Lazarus come to life’ but “Lazarus, come forth!’ ‘You don’t belong in that tomb anymore; you’re not the same now’.

He’s saying to you today, ‘You have no business in the darkness, you’re My child of the Light!’ Live life each day and **Reflect Jesus** everywhere you go, and in all that you do and say let that light expose the darkness and make a real difference!