

Darkness To Light-

Part 3 Darkness to Light- Pastor John, December 17, 2023

To be left in the dark: This means to be kept uninformed or not given knowledge about something.

THE PROBLEM: The world is being kept in the dark.

Here's what he says in 2 Corinthians 4:4:

The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

And the lower-case "g" god of this world is the devil, the serpent, the snake, Satan.

Hebrews 1:3 Speaking of Jesus... He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Colossians 1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God.

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word WAS God."

Blinding unbelievers from seeing the light. The light is the beauty of who the Messiah was: It was the suffering servant, the Passover Lamb, the servant-King, Emmanuel:God with us.

The problem: People everywhere are being blinded from seeing this.

Acts 26:18

"I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

1. Open their eyes - and to turn them from darkness to light - to spiritual knowledge/truth.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. -2 Corinthians 4:5-6

2. Turning us from darkness to light.

Isaiah 42; 16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.

These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness" (John 12:46). - JESUS

1 Peter 2:9 – But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

3. Turn from the power of Satan to God.

Transferring allegiance from the power of Satan to God.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Escape from the trap - taken them captive.

Come to the knowledge of the truth and Come to their senses.

Ephesians 2:2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. - NLT (TRANSLATION)

Colossians 1:13 – “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”

4. Receiving forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 5: 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.”

But as we step into the light, and allow the light to expose those things, we can find healing. We can receive forgiveness for our sins.

“The final break-through to fellowship does not occur, because, though they have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, as sinners.

“The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. We dare not be sinners. Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy.”

A fellowship of sinners is marked by:

1. Deep confession
2. Frequent Repentance
3. Celebrating God's forgiving grace

“In confession, the break-through to community takes place. Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation. Sin wants to remain unknown. It shuns the light. In the darkness of the unexpressed it poisons the whole being of a person. This can happen even in the midst of a pious community. In confession the light of the Gospel breaks into the darkness and seclusion of the heart.”

1 John 1:6–7: "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

5. Standing among those who are sanctified

(The word "sanctify" in the Greek means "to set apart.")

The Father has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:12

1 Thessalonians 5:5 You are all children of the light and children of the day.
We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

Qualified, and Modified! (transformed).

Ephesians 5: 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

You WERE darkness.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

So what?

1. How have you responded to the light of the good news of Jesus the Christ?
2. What community of believers are you committed to? (fellowship of the pious or fellowship of sinners?)
3. As a church, are we willing to come further into the light of Christ, and stop hiding our sin in the dark? - a church that rejoices in God's grace.

