

“From Darkness to Light” - Ephesians 5:8-14 – June 17th, 2018

- The titled of today’s teaching is “From Darkness to Light.”
- In the text we have before us today, the Apostle Paul paints a stark contrast between once being darkness and now being light.
- In so doing, he continues his exhortation to the Christians in Ephesus concerning their response to all that God has done for us.

- It’s interesting to note Paul doesn’t say we were once in darkness and are now in light rather, we were darkness but now light.
- While it is true that we walk in the light in the sense of reflecting light from the Lord, it’s also true that we as Christians are light.
- You’ll forgive what might come off as being redundant, but we’re not only in the light of the Lord, we’re also the light of the Lord.

- The reason I wanted to begin in this way is because it’s of paramount importance to establish this truth in order to understand it.
- Specifically, that of living as children of light, which will be evidenced by the fruit of the light; goodness, righteousness and truth.
- As such our lives will be pleasing to the Lord by virtue of our living as light having once been darkness prior to new life in Christ.

- It’s verse eleven that we should really pay attention to where Paul says that we’re not to have anything to do with the darkness.
- Notice he says that not only are we to have nothing to do with darkness but we need to reprove the fruitless deeds of darkness.
- He goes on to say, in verses 12-13, that it’s shameful to even mention what’s done in secret but it will be exposed by the light.

- Then in verse 14 he says this is why it’s said that the sleeper is to wake up and rise from the dead so Christ will shine on them.
- It seems that Paul is implying that as Christian’s, there’s still this propensity for us to live as darkness instead of living as light.
- In other words, though we are now light, we’re still prone to be partakers of and partners with those fruitless deeds of darkness.

2 Corinthians 6:14–15 - 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

- Please know this is God’s way of protecting us from that, which could pose a harm or danger to us by yoking with unbelievers.
- Actually, throughout the pages of scripture, God warns his people by way of forbidding his people to engage in such practices.
- It reminds me of the saying that goes like this: “Sin is not bad because it’s forbidden, rather, sin is forbidden because it’s bad.”

- It’s for this reason that Paul is emphasizing the good that comes from being light and having nothing to do with sinful darkness.
- Paul, like the Savior Himself before him speaks to this important truth of being the light of the world in the darkness in the world.
- If you’ll kindly indulge me for the remainder of our time together in God’s Word, I want to share three truths about being light.

1. Those in the light will be hated (John 3:16-21)

John 3:16–21 - 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

2. Those in the light will shine before others (Matthew 5:13-16)

Matthew 5:13–16 - 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

3. Those in the light will be ready for Christ’s return (1 Thessalonians 5:4-8)

1 Thessalonians 5:4–8 - 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.