

January 12, 2019 - Light of the World #3 (20003-A)

Walk in the Light part 2

Selected Scriptures

**I. Jesus, the Light of the World. 12:44-50; 8:12.**

A. This is a stunning reality with stunning implications. No other teacher of any philosophy or religion has the nerve to say such a thing. This one statement is sufficient to set Jesus Christ apart and force a choice regarding who you think He is. (Matt.16:13)

B. *What does it mean to follow Him in the Light? (8:12)*

**II. Last week we saw that walking in the Light means:**

A. Listening to the Word. Jn.12:44-50

1. So what we listen to impacts what we see.

B. Which shines into an eternal destiny. 1 Thess.5

1. *The Light of Jesus Christ shines through the grave and into eternity.*

2. He proved it by returning from the grave.

C. And reveals the truth of God's kingdom. Col.1:13ff; Jn.3:3ff

1. An otherwise invisible reality.

**III. The Light illuminates the path forward. How? Two ways:**

**A. By contrasting the world's darkness with God's light. Eph.4:17-24; 5:1-14**

**1. The old life is mentally and morally darkened. Eph.4:17-24**

a) Darkened in their understanding (not thinking straight)

b) Alienated from God

c) Ignorant (of God's reality and word)

d) Because of a heart-callous: hardened heart, giving themselves up to sensuality (living for self-indulgence).

(1) Never satisfied and always looking for more impurity (greedy, pleonexia)

e) *Note: the hardness/callous of heart produces the ignorance and results in a giving of the self over to sensuality, impurity etc.*

**f) *But this is not Christ's way! The New Humanity is different! 20-24***

**2. The old life is sexually and ethically darkened. Eph.5:3-14**

a) Living and talking moral filth. 3-5a (1Cor.6:9-11)

(1) Pornea (sexual immorality). Akatharsia (moral filth)

b) Worshipping and pursuing the Self. 5b.

(1) Covetous (pleonexia, greedy) = idolatry.

(2) Never enough.

**3. The new life is the opposite: Light. A distinct contrast. 7-14**

a) Seeks what is pleasing to the Lord.10

(1) What is good? Right? True? Morally, ethically?

b) Avoids dark works. 11a

(1) Include me out of immorality, un-ethical, sinful things.

c) Exposes the darkness? 11b

(1) Living and speaking in a way that is distinctly different.

(2) Disagreeing when immorality is endorsed.

(a) Sexual immorality

(b) Denigration of human life (abortion)

(3) Voting and voicing opposition to evil in the culture.

**4. Because you are already light in Christ. 8**

a) We aren't just "in the light" we are the light.

b) This is an exhortation to live according to who you really are as a Christian.

**B. By illuminating our failures and God's grace. 1 Jn.1:5-2:2.**

1. The light illuminates our failures, convicting us of sin. 1:8-9
  - a) *In this age, there is never a time when we can claim perfection, the absence of need for grace.*
    - (1) Rom.3:23 (present middle indicative: are falling short...)
2. But also our Rescue in God's Grace. 2:1-2
  - a) *There is never a time that grace is absent from our lives. Rom.5:1*

**C. Because of the One who is the Light is our Advocate and Propitiation. 1Jn.2:2.**

1. He is the Advocate (paraclete) and the propitiation (hilistation)
2. He is not a philosopher or a guru. He is a Savior/Advocate
  - a) Because He is really there and what He has done (propitiation) is a tangible, historical, legal reality in time and space. With eternal ramifications.
3. *Living in gospel grace means repentance and forgiveness as a lifestyle, with God and with each other.*
4. *This produces what we all pray for—humility and courage—at the same time.*