

Light vs. Darkness

Genesis 1:3-5- “And God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. And God saw the light that *it was* good; and God divided between the light and the darkness. And God called the light day, and He called the darkness night. And the evening and the morning were day one.”

"Let there be light" was the first command God spoke after His Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters. God is light. Light and life are almost synonymous. Life on earth would cease to exist without light. By contrast, darkness is synonymous with death.

There are numerous references to light throughout the Bible. “Light” itself, is used almost nine hundred times throughout scripture. Light represents truth, righteousness, virtue, honesty, morality, and God’s saving grace. In contrast, darkness signifies evil, sin, faults, and the influences and works of Satan the Devil. In a spiritual view of the world today, it does not take any effort to see the manifest handiwork of the enemy.

Webster's Dictionary defines light as, "something that makes vision possible.

Duh...however, they do include the scientific definition of what light is,

"electromagnetic radiation of any wavelength that travels in a vacuum with a speed of 299,792,458 meters (about 186,000 miles) per second."

There are three types of light, natural light (sunlight, moonlight, stars, etc.), artificial light (manufactured), and spiritual light. There is also "bioluminescent light" which is a chemical reaction in certain forms of life. Man *can* make chemical lights but the ones occurring in nature would be considered natural light...in case you are competing on Jeopardy. In this lesson we will focus on the aspects spiritual light and darkness.

By definition according to the Cambridge Dictionary, "darkness" is defined as: the quality of being without light, or a situation in which there is little or no light.

Being without light does not seem like a quality. Have you ever gotten up in the middle of the night without turning on any lights? How many objects can you find with your bare feet or furniture with your toes? Walking in spiritual darkness can be more painful than that.

On the fourth day of creation, God made two great lights.

Genesis 1:16-19- “And God *had* made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night; and *God had made* the stars *also*. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide between the light and the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good. And the evening and the morning were day four.”

In the very beginning of creation, God set the *light* with power over the *darkness*. It can be difficult to understand the biblical descriptions of light without seeing it as the great opposition and victor over darkness. Light has dominion over darkness.

Light in the diverse meanings is the essence of biblical subjects such as salvation, judgment, sanctification, and restoration. Light is blended in the Plan of God for the salvation of all humanity. By His mercy, God has called us out of darkness.

1 Peter 2:9-10- “But you are a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession *of God*, that you might proclaim His *excellent* virtues, Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; Who once *were* not a people,

but now are *the* people of God; who had not received mercy, but now have received mercy.”

God’s true light comes out of our hearts. This is one of the reasons we constantly emphasize the necessity for a contrite heart. It reflects God’s Spirit and light back to Him from those who are truly walking in His light. God, who commanded the light to shine at creation, is the One who lights our hearts and minds to His truth.

Light, having dominion over darkness at creation, establishes its rulership throughout the universe. The New Testament depicts Jesus Christ as the embodiment of Divine Light.

John 8:12- “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows Me shall never walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 9:1-5- “Now as Jesus was passing by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither did this man sin, nor his

parents; rather, this blindness came so that the works of God might be manifested in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent Me while it is still day. When the night comes, no one is able to work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

We know from scripture that those who reject this Divine Light will bring judgment upon themselves.

Proverbs 13:9- “The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.”

Proverbs 24:19-20- “Do not fret yourself because of evil men, nor be envious of the wicked; For there shall not be a reward to the evil man; the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.”

Job 18:5-6- “Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his lamp shall be put out with him.”

The prophet Isaiah predicted Christ coming as a great light and He would shine upon those in darkness.

Isaiah 9:2- “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; they who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined.”

At the onset of His ministry, Jesus repeated Isaiah’s prophecy.

Matthew 4:14-16- “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, saying, “*The* land of Zabulon and the land of Nephthalim, *by the* way of *the* sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people who were sitting in darkness have seen a great light; and to those who were sitting in *the* realm and shadow of death, light has sprung up.”

It is sin that separates us from God and keeps us in darkness. When we have sin in our lives, we cannot receive spiritual understanding. We are disconnected from God’s Spiritual Light. If God and Jesus Christ are light, then light is a symbol for salvation and a new way of life.

1 John 1:5-7- “And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God *is* light, and there is no darkness at all in Him. If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness, we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth. However, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin.”

We have been called out from the darkness to *walk in the light*.

Ephesians 5:8-11- “For you were once darkness; but now *you are* light in *the* Lord. Walk as children of light, (Because the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is well pleasing to the Lord; And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*;”

Walking as children of the light is not an easy journey. Being separated from so many things that were once part of our lives can be difficult. Unlearning all we may have been taught to fully understand God’s word is a trial.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18- “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? **And what fellowship does light**

have with darkness? And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? **For you are a temple of *the* living God,** exactly as God said: “I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,**” says *the Lord*, “and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says *the Lord Almighty.*”

We need not have any fear of the storms or trials that may beset us in our walking in God’s light.

Psalm 27:1- “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

We will have trials, be judged and despised, rejected and hated. But the world hated Jesus first.

1 Peter 4:12-19- “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial among you which is taking place to test you, as if some strange thing were happening to you. But to

the degree that you have a share in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice; so that, at the revelation of His glory, you also may rejoice exceedingly. If you are reviled for *the* name of Christ, *you are* blessed because the *Spirit* of glory and the Spirit of God is resting upon you; on their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. Assuredly, let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil doer, or as an overlording busybody in other people's lives. Yet if anyone *is suffering* as a Christian, he should not be ashamed; but let him glorify God because of this, For the time *has come for* judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it first *begins* with us, what *will be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if the righteous are saved with much difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and *the* sinner? For this reason also, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to *Him* in well doing, as to a faithful Creator.”

John 15:18-19- “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have personally chosen you out of the world, the world hates you for this.”

But we *will be blessed* for persecution for righteousness's sake.

Matthew 5:9-11- “Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called *the* sons of God. Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they shall reproach you, and shall persecute you, and shall falsely say every wicked thing against you, for My sake.”

Walking in God’s light or obeying His Commandments and Word as it is written is not popular. A godless life is darkness. Darkness has fallen over our present society. We are a godless nation in the sense that people want to worship God in “their” way and not follow what God says in His Bible. So many people follow various doctrine without ever knowing for themselves what is said in God’s word. We know He said, “My people perish for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4:6). They are oblivious to God’s truth by their own choice!

Job 12:24-25- “He takes away the heart of the chief of the people of the earth, and causes them to wander in a wilderness *where there is* no path. They grope in the dark without light, and He makes them to stagger like *a* drunken man.”

2 Timothy 3:7- “*They are* always learning but *are* never able to come to *the* knowledge of *the* truth.”

They cannot come to the full knowledge of the Bible while walking in darkness. Not only *do they not hear*, but also, *they do not see*, because they are not in the light.

John 1:1-5- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and not even one thing that was created came into being without Him. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, but *the darkness does not comprehend it.*”

Isaiah 6:8-10- “And I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here *am* I; send me!” And He said, “Go, and tell this people, ‘You hear indeed, but do not understand; and you see indeed, but do not perceive.’ Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and return, and be healed.”

We are in this mess because society would rather communicate lies and deceit. Doctors, lawyers, Big Pharma, Newscasters, and especially politicians treat lies and deceit like they are virtues. So many TV shows are based on the premise that

lies are funny and the sit-coms are replete with such themes. Lying is a norm and completely acceptable.

Isaiah 5:20-21- “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”

We should expect this conduct from those still in the world, but how bad are the churches distorting the word of God? Editing God’s word for the sake of doctrine will always be a disconnect in understanding.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6- “But if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing; In whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them. For we do not preach our own selves, but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake Because *it is* God Who commanded *the* light to shine out of darkness, Who shined into our hearts *the* light of the knowledge of the glory of God in *the* face of Jesus Christ.”

Not reading the Bible ourselves and developing the personal relationship He desires of us will hinder us in coming into God’s light. It is far too easy to believe

the lies. We can hold grudges, sing in the choir, and pretend we are serving God, but we are only fooling ourselves.

1 John 2:8-11- “Again, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims that he is in the light, but hates his brother, is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother is dwelling in the light, and there is no cause of offense in him. But the one who hates his brother is in darkness, and is walking in darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

Walking in God’s light exposes the darkness within us. We must come to terms with any hidden sins. It is by far easier to “play church” and smile without putting forth the efforts to repent and overcome the things in our lives that are contrary to God’s way of living it. It takes *work* and *consistency*. We cannot expect a harvest without cultivating and planting a crop first.

John 3:19-21- “And this is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, so that

his works may not be exposed; But the one who practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be manifested, that they have been accomplished by the power of God.”

Satan is surrounded by darkness, but he masquerades as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14- “And *it is* no marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

He will focus his false light on the pleasures of sin. It is our responsibility to demonstrate the true light of God by our example. We must let our light so shine as Jesus called us lights of the world.

Matthew 5:14-16- “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do they light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket, but on the lampstand; and it shines for all who *are* in the house. In the same way also, you are to *let your light shine before men*, so that they may see your good works, and may glorify your Father Who *is* in heaven.”

Members of God's true church is to make visible God's way of life. Being one of His lights connects to enlightenment of His truth and knowledge. We ourselves cannot bring anyone into His church as God does the calling Himself (John 6:44). No tracts, mailers, or handouts, but we can be prepared (1 Peter 3:15) with the ready answer and let our light shine as a true witness. God's light in us will radiate by our example.

No one has ever seen God, except the Son.

John 1:18- "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, Who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."

We know from Exodus that Moses could not look upon His face and live (**Exodus 33:20-23**). His luminescence must be incredible! It must be brighter than the Sun and we shall see Him when New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven to the Earth. There will be no Sun or Moon for illumination as God the Father and Jesus Christ will be the light of it. Can you imagine how bright that will be?

Revelation 21:22-25- "And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city has no need of the sun, or of the moon,

that they should shine in it; because the glory of God enlightens it, and the light of it *is* the Lamb. And the nations that are saved shall walk in its light; and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honor into it. And its gates shall never be shut by day; for there shall be no night there.”

Revelation 22:3-5- “And there shall be no more curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him, And they shall see His face; and His name *is* in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; for they have no need of a lamp or *the* light of *the* sun, because *the* Lord God enlightens them; and they shall reign into the ages of eternity.”

God will destroy all darkness at the end of the age. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. The glory and light of New Jerusalem will be the presence of God the Father Himself! All the servants of Jesus Christ will reign with Him for all eternity.

The members of God’s true church are being enlightened spiritually now in preparation for His Second Coming. As the first fruits of God’s Kingdom, now is the time to get ready.

Romans 13:11-12- “Now *consider* this, knowing the time, that *it is* already *the* hour *that* we should be roused out of sleep; because our salvation *is* nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near; therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

Reading and studying God’s word and keeping His commandments illuminates our path.

Psalm 119:105-107- “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances. I am afflicted very much; O LORD, give me life according to Your word.”

By walking in God’s light, we are cleansed by the Blood of Jesus, and His Holy Spirit floods our hearts and minds with His perfect truth.

Proverbs 6:20-23- “My son, keep your father’s commandments, and do not forsake the instruction of your mother; Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you go, they shall lead you; when you sleep, they shall keep you; and *when* you awake, they shall talk with you. For the

commandment *is* a lamp, and the law *is* light, and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life.”

God will be always with us. He will never leave, not forsake us, *if* we stay the course.

Psalm 97:10-12- “You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous ones, and praise His holy name.”

In this, we can rejoice and have His complete peace.

Philippians 4:4-7- “Rejoice in *the* Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your moderation be known to all men; the Lord *is* near. Do not be anxious about anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything; And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”

As Passover draws near, it is time for reflection and for all of God's called to increase our faith and dedication to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and walk in His glorious light.

Isaiah 60:1-2- "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you, For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness *the* people; but the LORD shall arise upon you, and His glory shall be seen upon you." Amen.

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