

## The Biblical Instruction Regarding Darkness

### Introduction

A. Truth is perhaps our most important possession and error our most destructive force. Only the ignorant look upon error as weak. Thick, for example, of all those terrible effects of not knowing the truth or that which accompanies the choice of error over truth!

B. These truths are graphically set forth in the Bible by use of the simile "light vs darkness".

### I. The Biblical Explanation of the Term "Darkness".

A. Darkness stands for all the opposite of what God is, I John 1:5.

This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Observation: The moral attributes of God are Truth, Love, and Holiness. This verse reminds us that "darkness" is the lack of, or the opposite of, truth, love and holiness. This brings a new dimension to our pretense, to our selfishness, and to our sensuality.

B. Darkness stands for all the opposite of God's revelation, John 3:19.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Observation: This passage is teaching the effects of God's love in sending Jesus Christ into the world. His revelation is truth. The commentary on the human race, in this verse, is startling. Do we resist the truth - because we do not wish to change?

C. Darkness and demonic forces are intimately related, Ephesians 6:12.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness (wicked spirits) in high places.

Observation: This is one of the most shocking evaluations of the seriousness of error. Not many of us are willing to accept this truth that our involvement in error makes us vulnerable to Satan's influence.

D. Darkness stands for the judgment that comes through rejecting truth, Matt. 8:12.

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Observation: When one refuses to believe upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior his very destiny is described to be in harmony with what he has chosen - darkness. This reminds us that Hell will be the very opposite of truth, love, holiness, and all that accompanies the virtues and blessings associated with these divine attributes.

### II. The Believer's Relationship to "Darkness".

A. The believer does not live characterized by darkness, John 8:12.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, He that followeth Me shall not walk (live) In darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Observation: The one who believes on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord has been delivered from the control of darkness (error and sin). This does not mean perfection - but a characteristic of life.

B. The believer has been delivered from the power of darkness, Colossians 1:13.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear son.

Observation: The work of God in our lives through His grace has broken the power of error and sin. Life have been set free. We are reminded that salvation is a very practical and powerful deliverance. (Acts 26:18; II Corinthians 4:6; I Peter 2:9)

### III. The Believer's Exhortations Regarding "Darkness".

A. The believer must have the right priorities, Matthew 6:23.

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Observation: In this passage the Lord Jesus is teaching the necessity of having correct priorities by using the illustration of sight. The blind person is characterized by darkness and is thereby highly limited in life. The application spiritually in this verse refers to having an "evil eye", i.e., making incorrect judgments of worth. When we know, or could know the truth, and choose not to live by it - we bring darkness into our life.

B. The believer must renounce all fellowship with darkness, Ephesians 5:11.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Observation: The word "fellowship" in this verse refers to approval, to share in value, to participate. All of this the Christian may not do with error and sin. We are called to separation from darkness in all of its forms and to so live and speak that we cause a "reproving" and rebuking of darkness.

C. The believer may not live in darkness but in the light, I John 1:6,7.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Observation: There can be no fellowship with God when we choose to live out of harmony with His very nature and Word. This shows the terrible character of sin and its effects. The encouragement found in verse seven brings comfort to us - we can live in fellowship with God and receive His constant cleansing.

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