

Curse the Darkness, Live in the Light
Ephesians 5:8-17
November 4, 2012

Eph 5:8-17

8 For you were once darkness¹, but now you are light in the Lord². Live as children of light³

¹ Yes, there is a profound reality that we were all once in darkness but the Lord has called those of us who call on Jesus into the marvelous light. Think of those days of darkness. Think of the cravings you had. Think of the things that we did in the darkness, when we might have felt no one was watching. Think of what's its like when we live in the dark places of our minds, our spirits and our souls. I remember my days in darkness; this is not a good place to be.

² But, thanks be to God, when we accept Christ, we are no longer compelled to be in the darkness but we can now live in the light. The light is in us. The light is with us. We have access to God's mercy and we have access to God's grace. We have access to God's joy and to God's peace. We are light in the Lord.

³ And, thus confronted with what we once were and what we have now become in Christ, what are we to do? Live as children of the light. Live as children of Christ. Live in a manner that reflects that God's light and God's life reside within you. We have been called out of the darkness; we should not live like we are still in darkness. Whether that be the dark shadows of sin that tempt us to do the wrong things . . . or the darkness of shame and bondage from things that have been done to us in the past. In either case, let us not live in that darkness but let us live in and reflect God's light.

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9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)⁴

⁴ And, if we are looking for evidence of the light in ourselves or in others, what do we look for? What is the fruit of living in God's light?? Verse 9 tells us to look for goodness, righteousness and truth. What are these three things? Do we see them in our lives? Do we see them in the lives of others? When we go through the journeys of our days, especially the challenging days, do we strive to bear fruit that shows that we are children of the light?? When confronted with life do you choose goodness or badness? Righteousness or wickedness?? Do you chose truth or a lie??? The bible says that a tree is known by the fruit it bears. Child of God, man of God, women of God . . . what type of fruit are you bearing? Is it fruit of the light . . . or is it fruit of darkness???

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10 and find out what pleases the Lord⁵.

⁵ Having completed one task, living as children of the light and not as children of the darkness . . . we are also compelled to another – find out what is pleasing to God. What is pleasing to God? How will we know? Where do we do this finding? First, to know what is pleasing to God, we must **STUDY GOD’S WORD**. We must spend time in the word of God to know what pleases God. This study does not just occur on Sundays. In fact, if Sunday is your only fill of the Word, you are likely going through the week hungry. This is why we make opportunities – Sunday school classes, 2 bible studies on Wednesday, - available for you to get together and study the word of God. How do we please God?? Spend time in prayer and praise and listen for direction from him.

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11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness⁶, but rather expose them.⁷

⁶ There is a weaving taking place here. The writer has circled back to this principle of darkness. It is important to him and it is important to us. The darkness can be tempting. The darkness can be persuasive. It can try to sway you to do some things you have never done before. The darkness can try to take you back to a past that you thought you had given up. That past can be things that you used to do that you don't do anymore . . . drink, drugs, loose sex, pornography, lying, gossiping it's all bad. The darkness can also make you go back and pick up pain, or hurt, or fear, or confusion, or depression, or rage from your past that stopped you from being all that God made you to be. But, the Lord has said that you are a child of the light. Don't have anything to do with the fruitless deeds of the darkness. When you see the things of the darkness . . . verse 11 says have nothing to do with them. Rebuke them, in the name of Jesus.

⁷ Here then is a second challenge – expose the deeds of the darkness. Expose the darkness when you see it. This is how you move through and past the darkness. Whether it is temptations, snares and traps or the darkness that tries to consume us in our minds and spirits . . . [opportunity to speak on Progressive's Mental Wellness Ministry] Calling things by name is exposing the darkness. When you open the door a crack in a dark room, the light floods the darkness. 1 John 1:5 tells us that "God is light; in him there is no darkness." [This is a section that good stand more depth – depending on the subject of the sermon. For example, mental wellness . . .]

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12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

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

15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.⁸

⁸ This is the same thing said in a different way. It is saying to be careful about how we live. Be careful of the darkness . . . be careful of the darkness of temptation . . . be careful of the darkness of the past . . . be careful of the darkness of shame and uncertainty. . . I, and others, could wallow in what happened or didn't happen in the past . . . but that will not change the nature of today. And, the reality is, the days are evil. We have seen enough death and despair to know that the days are evil. But, what are we to do quit? Give up?? Crawl up under the covers and concede??? Or just roll over and die???? No, the Bible tells that in spite of the fact that the days are evil. Despite of what has happened to us? Despite of what we have done in the past . . . that we are to come to Jesus . . . come to Jesus . . . come to Jesus . .

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. .right now . . . no, don't roll over . . . don't quit . . . don't stop now . . .
make the most of every single opportunity that the Lord places in front of
you . . . don't act like the dead and the darkness . . . no, live your life . . . live
in the light . . . take advantage of every opportunity that God gives to you . .
. do not let shame, temptation, guilt or depression slow you down . . . for
God tells us in Romans 8:1 therefore, there is now no condemnation for
those who are in Christ Jesus, because the through Christ, the law of the
Spirit of life has set us free from the law of sin and death. Come to Jesus . .
. come to Jesuscome to Jesus . . . right now. The law couldn't save you
from death, darkness and condemnation . . . but Christ and his atoning death
on the cross came into the world . . . he is the light of the world . . .you are
light in the Lord . . . live your life as children of the light . . . not as children
of the darkness . . . come to Jesus . . . come to Jesus . . . come to Jesus right
now . . . "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and the light of Christ will
shine on you." Curse the darkness the tries to swallow you . . . kick back the
temptation that tries to tempt you . . . rebuke the enemy who seeks to kill,
steal and destroy . . . instead walk in God's light . . . talk in God's . . . bathe
in God's light . . . rejoice in God's light . . . find joy in God's light . . . find
peace in God's light . . . find life in God's light . . . when that darkness tries
to make its way back into your life . . . curse the darkness and live in God's
light.