

## We Are The Light in a Dark World

**Mat 4:16** The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

- This was prophesied in **Isa 9:2** and fulfilled when the incarnate **Son of God** appeared. What a time it must have been to be alive when **Jesus** came at the beginning of the first century. To live when the true **Light** came into the world. The light that **Jesus** left for the world is the knowledge that generates through **His** word which illuminates from **His** body the church. As the lampstand in the tabernacle was the only light that gave the priests the illumination they needed to do the work under the **Levitical** system, we as priests (**Rev 1:6; 5:10**) of the **New Covenant**, understand the only light that illuminates our path comes from the word of **God**, the ultimate spiritual, moral and all sufficient book of the redeemed, the **Bible**.

**Psa 119:105** NUN. **Thy** word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- True, complete light does not come from philosophies, introspection or other ideologies that come from mortal man. They are to come from the eternal **God Who** made us.

**Jer 10:23** O **LORD**, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

**Joh 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. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

- In his vanity, mankind has over the centuries relied on himself when making decisions concerning his eternal destiny, when contemplating morality, life and death, **Heaven** and **Hell** and even on whether science and the **Bible** are compatible. How often have you been in arguments or discussions where those you try to reason with just won't give in to the truth, admit when they are wrong or are even willing to open a **Bible** without saying "that's your interpretation"? They want nothing to do with the real truth because it just might convict them or expose their futile ideas about anything that has to do with **God**. In their own minds it would be akin to failure or surrender. There are people who, through pride, will not give in to the idea of a moral code coming from any other place than within each individual or some self-proclaimed guru. They put their faith in a fallible human and not in the infallible **Creator**. History often repeats itself.

**Act 5:36** For before these days rose up **Theudas**, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. **37** After this man rose up **Judas** of **Galilee** in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, *even* as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

- Even within our time the **Jim Jones's** have come and gone into the ash heaps of false prophets. They and their followers refuse to give in to something higher than themselves, as though, in their own philosophical mindset, they are wiser than **God**.

1Co 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, **let him become a fool, that he may be wise** (*let his earthly wisdom be exposed for what it is, valueless, that he may obtain true “wisdom that is from above”-Jas 3:17*). 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh (*Gk.1405-entraps*) the wise in their own craftiness. 20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. *Because...*

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: *but* **fools** despise wisdom and instruction.

- It may take an act of God, as has been the case in the past for other world powers, to restore this great nation to its former glory when immoral acts were “not so much as uttered among the Gentiles” (1 Cor 5:1). No laws had to be established against such acts because they weren’t even mentioned in conversation let alone through the press of that era. Who would have known then how far this nation would sink? But, you’ll have many who will question your motives by stating the founding fathers had slaves or how back then women weren’t permitted to vote along with a slew of other things they often cite, ad-nauseam, to control the conversation. Obviously the constitution is not as perfect as the word of God since there have been amendments added down through the last two hundred years. (*Though in vain denominations have tried to “amend” the Bible through false “doctrines of devils”- 1 Tim 4:1.*) Inequalities have been remedied but how far do we go? Do we **over**-remedy for the sake of past injustices to the point of sanctioning immoral behavior?

Num 14:18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and **by no means clearing the guilty**, visiting (*Heb.6485- to oversee:- avenge*) the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

- “Well I thought according to Eze 18:20 that ‘the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father’ so there must be a discrepancy here!” The **consequences** of one generation’s mistakes are **not** to be considered a punishment but will always have repercussions on those following it. Which is why the qualifications God gave concerning the eldership are so strict that it seems difficult to find men who are **Biblically** competent to serve in such a capacity. But, if they weren’t as narrow as they are, generations of brethren would have been led astray by those un-qualified to lead, which was what played a major role in the apostasy of the early church. We should never think that as long as a man meets **most** of the qualifications he can serve because it would be akin to going through **most** of the steps to be saved but not all. The qualifications were made so because as a man is over his own home he will be over the house of God.

1Ti 3:5 (For if a man **know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?**)

- With the “60s” mentality entering the political arena, will such be true in the Lord’s church when it comes to choosing men who are qualified to serve, understanding that many who are doing the selecting have been exposed to such a liberal mindset? Will men be chosen according to popularity, tenure or how they “tickle” ears and reward favors? Such has added to the decline of the nuclear family within the church and is gaining in such a fast downward spiral it must be understood that as the family goes, so then goes the church and nation. Dysfunction breeds dysfunction! That being the case, we’re headed in the wrong direction and if we think we can bury our collective heads in

the sand, that will only keep us from eventually having to face the inevitable. Just because this nation's elected elites might accept immoral behavior as normal, as they're wrong to think of it as such, or because they don't want to suffer losing at the hands of their opponents who run on political correctness, **God** has not, **nor ever will**, change.

Mal 3:6 For **I am** the **LORD, I change not**; ... 7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from **Mine** ordinances, and have not kept *them*. **Return unto Me, and I will return unto you**, saith the **LORD** of hosts. ...

- **God's** law trumps man's laws any day of the week! Without **God's** moral code, man's law would only produce chaos. There would be no basis for rules against treating others unfairly. Everything would be lawful. When everyone has rights nobody does!

1Pe 4:3 For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the **Gentiles**, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, **speaking evil of you**: 5 Who shall give account to **Him** that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

- How difficult it is to live righteously in such darkness and moral decay! And those "activist" judges like **John Jones III** of Pennsylvania who ruled against PA's constitutional amendment concerning the "Defense of Marriage Act". Do you know what it takes to amend a constitution? But with the stroke of his pen, **Judge Jones** went against the will of the people, and worse yet, the will of **God**. He wielded his power with such arrogance, but will one day face the ultimate **Judge**. The wicked only repeat the mistakes of the past.

Jdg 17:6 In those days *there was* no king in **Israel**, *but* every man did *that which was* right **in his own eyes**.

- Sadly our president, the "king" in this country has overstepped the will of the people he was "elected" to represent by "evolving" in his thoughts on immoral behavior.

Psa 9:15 The heathen are sunk down in the pit **that they made**: in the net which **they hid** is their own foot taken. 16 The **LORD** is known *by* the judgment *which He* executeth: the wicked is snared **in the work of his own hands**. Higgsaion. Selah. 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and all the nations that forget God*.

- When governing authorities forget **God** that country's end is nearer than before. How is that so? Because...

1Co 2:14 ... the natural man receiveth not the things of the **Spirit** of **God**: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

- And how futile it is to argue with a pompous "know-it-all". They give the impression they know the **Bible** yet their words say otherwise by showing how ignorant they are of the truth. They dig themselves deeper and deeper into their own destruction. But...

Mat 5:8 **Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.** 9 **Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.** 10 **Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.** (*It used to be I this country*)

where you'd be persecuted for what was once illegal behavior. Things have taken a 180 turn for the worst.) 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile (*Gk.3679- to defame, that is, rail at, chide, taunt*) you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, **for My sake**. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in Heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

- We just need to stand out from the crowd because...

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under a bushel, but on a lampstand; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 **Let your light so shine before men**, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in Heaven.

Php 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the [child] of God, without rebuke, **in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation**, among whom ye **shine as lights** in the world;

- With soft porn viewable for children to see at the checkout counter in most every place of business, with foul language “supposedly” slipping past the censors on the airwaves, and obviously there’s more, how can we escape becoming numb to such immorality? And why do so many watch such trash on television that can “sear” our “conscience [as] with a hot iron” (1 Tim 4:2) thus becoming oblivious to the destructive nature of sin? Or are we to just stay at home only venturing out when necessary, or do we make known who we are and speak “boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Act 9:29)?

1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; **for then must ye needs go out of the world**.

- How are we to reach the lost with the gospel if we stay to ourselves? How is a lost world to hear the message of hope and peace if we aren’t the ones to deliver it? We can’t rely on those who are not teaching the truth so it **has** to be up to us. The world is depending on our knowledge of the truth and the ability to be bold enough to proclaim it. Because...

2Th 1:7 ... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire **taking vengeance on them that know not God**, and **that obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from (*Gk.575- : -denotes separation*) the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; 10 When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

- More proclaiming the message of peace needs to be done since more and more activist, unelected judges have been going against the will of the few moral people that are left. And the will of the voting citizenry will only become more complacent with the passing of time unless they are educated to the will of God. A carnal lie told often enough will be believed over the truth seldom told! As the “children of light” (*Eph 5:8*) we need to make our presence known. Don’t we know how darkness is affected by the light?

Joh 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

- It's past time that we push the truth of the gospel which will in turn cast out the darkness of ignorance.

Isa 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

- We now have men and women in government who are “wise in [their] own conceits” (*Rom 12:16*), who feel their legacy and making history are more important than doing what they've been elected to do, make proper decisions that affect all people and not just some. Not just the squeaking wheel immoral minority. We understand what the Bible teaches on the subject of homosexuality. In time our children will begin to think, and eventually feel normal about, people of the same gender marrying just as it seems to be accepted now where two people of opposite genders living together out of wedlock has become the norm. “Nothing wrong with that. Hey, the government even sanctions it!”

Isa 30:8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come **for ever and ever:** 9 That this *is* a **rebellious people**, lying children, children *that will not hear* (*Heb 8085- to hear intelligently [often with implication of attention, obedience]:- consider*) **the law of the LORD:** 10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets (*today it would be to the preachers of righteousness*), Prophecy not unto us right things (*Heb.5229- integrity, truth*), speak unto us smooth things (*Heb.2513- flattery. [like some televangelists who tell people what they want to hear]*), prophecy deceits: 11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the **Holy One of Israel** to cease from before us (*as though that were possible*). 12 Wherefore thus saith the **Holy One of Israel**, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and **perverse**ness, and stay thereon (*lean on your perverse ways*): 13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.

- Sin eventually catches up! None will escape! We cannot be intimidated by unbelievers when we understand that intimidation is just one of the tools **Satan** has at his ready. But we can know his mind when we know “the word of **God**” as the “discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (*Heb 4:12*). Even when it comes to **Satan's** devices.

2Co 2:11 Lest **Satan** should get an advantage of us: for **we are not ignorant** of his devices (*Gk.3540- purpose*).

- When a **Christian** accepts sinful and immoral, even though now legal, behavior it shows a lack of knowledge of scripture. Are we beginning to lose our “**savor**”?

Mat 5:13 **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it (the world) be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.**

- Are we allowing our voices to be trampled on by immoral, worldly people? We cannot afford to be like the church at **Sardis**. Not only do we need to hold on to what we have we need also to strengthen it.

Rev 3:3 **Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**

- To not voice our thoughts on a subject we know to be sinful, while others are speaking out in favor of it, is akin to being in support of such abominations. We can no longer sit idly by on the sidelines if we don't want sinful behavior to become the norm.

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools (*Gk.3471- as a simpleton*), 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

- Which would you want to invest in, a product that is perishable or one that is not? Which will survive the test of time, the Maker, or the thing made?

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie (*Not that the truth can actually be changed into a lie, but that spoken often enough a lie can be perceived as the truth. This is why we need to be more vocal against immorality!*), and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile (*Gk.819- disgrace*) affections (*Gk.3806- passion [especially concupiscence- lust]*): for even their women did change the natural (*Gk.5446- "physical", that is, instinctive*) use into that which is against nature (*Gk.5449- natural production*):

- In the beginning the human body was created for reproduction through the relationship between **one man** and **one woman**. Any use otherwise is to be understood as against its natural use. Thus the purpose for marriage, along with clarifying the spiritual relationship between Christ and His church (*Eph 5:31-32*). And not that once child bearing years end so should the physical relationship between the husband and wife either. Paul dealt with that issue in his letter to the Corinthians.

1Co 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency (*Gk.192- want [lack] of self-restraint*).

- But what about those who chose not to marry? After commenting on marriage and divorce it seemed there were many who were in violation of God's law concerning such that it prompted Jesus to state that there are those "**which made themselves (mentally) eunuchs for the kingdom of Heaven's sake**" (*Mat 19:12*). Along with a discussion on wealth and how difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven His disciples asked "Who then can be saved?" (*Mat 19:25*). Jesus' reply in verse 26 was "**With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible**". Paul even stated that he had "power to lead about a sister, a wife, as the other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord" (*1 Cor 9:5*) but chose rather to dedicate his life to the gospel. Why?

1Co 7:32 ... He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: 33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife.

- It would take a life dedicated to focusing completely on the word of God to keep a person away from committing themselves to sinful behavior. With God it can be possible. After having commented on women committing perversions against nature, what about men? How are we to deal with conversations when men "declare their sin as Sodom, [and] hide

it not..." (*Isa 3:9*) What answer do we give when they talk about "loving relationships" but in reality they are attempting to defend their own, what the Bible terms, selfish lust?

**Rom 1:27** And likewise also the men, **leaving the natural use** of the woman, **burned** (*Gk.1572- to inflame deeply*) **in their lust one toward another; men with men** working that which is **unseemly** (*Gk.808- an indecency*), and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet (*Gk.1163- necessary [as binding]*). **28** And even as they did not like to **retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a reprobate (*Gk.96- rejected, worthless*) mind, to do those things which are **not convenient** (*Gk.2520/3361- not becoming*); **29** Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity (*Gk.2550- bad character*); whisperers, **30** Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31 Without understanding** (*Gk.801- unintelligent[they may think they are but they're not]*), covenant-breakers, without natural affection (*Gk.794- hardhearted towards kindred*), implacable (*don't keep promises*), unmerciful: **32** Who **knowing the judgment of God**, that they which commit such things are **worthy of death** (*the "second death"- Rev 21:8 [according to Brad Price]*), not only do the same, but **have pleasure** (*Gk.4909- to think well of in common, that is, assent to*) **in them that do** (*Gk.4238- perform repeatedly or habitually*) **them.**

- These knew how God felt (*and feels*) about what they were doing and understood how the Israelite was to deal with such under the Old Covenant according to *Lev 20:13*. But now under the New, knowing they wouldn't be subject to capital punishment since in Roman society it was accepted as the norm, they thumbed their noses in the face of the Almighty anyway. In the end though, God will have the last word on it. But for those who didn't participate in such abominable acts, just because they didn't take part didn't mean they weren't guilty of such practices **if they condoned them** as being acceptable.

*"... the man who applauds and encourages those who practice something shameful, though not himself practicing it, is not only as depraved as those who practice it, but very often, if not always, actually more depraved than they. For those who applaud and encourage the vicious actions of others make a deliberate contribution to the establishment of a public opinion favorable to vice and thereby promote the corruption of an unnumbered multitude; ..."*  
Albert Barnes

- "But God made me this way! Can a righteous God punish me for something I have no control over? He has to accept me as I am!" Although we should never deny that there are those who have feelings for others of the same gender, like we can't deny other preferences such as liking one person's looks over another's, if they truly want to please God they'll control those desires that would be against His will. That is, if they want to go to Heaven. And making such a statement also shows a lack of Biblical understanding.

**Rom 9:18** Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will *have mercy*, and whom He will He hardeneth. (*Free agency will either harden a person's heart or soften it.*)**19** Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will? **20** Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast Thou made me thus? **21** Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the **same lump** (*we were all created from what God saw as "very good"- Gen 1:31*) to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? **22** What if God, willing to shew His wrath, and to make His power known, endured **with much longsuffering** (*He put up with*) the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction (*those who chose their eternal fate by*

*making choices that determined such*): 23 And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom He hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

- God chooses to reward righteous behavior and punish unrepentant, sinful conduct. Ultimately it becomes our own personal choice as to which path we follow. God knows which path we all end up on and thus honors our choices. But...

1Co 6:11 ... such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

- When we became Christians we were to give up those worldly desires and wants and replace them with ...

2Co 5:14 ... the love of Christ (*which*) constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were all dead: 15 And *that* He died for all, that they which live **should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him Who** died for them, and rose again.

2Co 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But if our gospel be hid, **it is hid to them that are lost**: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the **light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who** is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light (*knowledge*) of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness (*ignorance*), but shall have the light of life. Are... Ye are the light of the world. (*Mat 5:14*)...?** As a follower of Christ you can be.

#1.You've heard?

#2.Do you believe?

#3.Have you repented?

#4.Will you acknowledge Christ as the Son of God, your only Savior?

#5.Will you have your sins washed away?

#6.If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

#7. Are you growing?

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