

Light– 11/08/2019

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” Mt.6:10

Beloved in the Lord,

Light is superior to darkness. The smallest light is visible in the greatest darkness. We are created in such a way that we are dependent upon light. We cannot see in the dark, and when we are in the dark, it is difficult to function. It is much easier to navigate and move around in a light room, than it is in a dark room. I have stubbed a toe many times in the middle of the night, on my way to the bathroom, because I haven't turned on a light. I don't turn on the light because I don't want to disturb Linda...

When we read the Creation narrative, we find that the very first thing that God did was create light. We read:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.” Genesis 1:1-5

Light was created on day one. Without the sun, life as we know it, can't exist.

I don't know about you, but personally I like the sun. I like houses that are bathed with natural sunlight. Our house when we bought it, was quite dark and dingy, so we soon put in sky windows that have made all the difference. I find, as do many people, that my mood is better on a bright sunny day, then it is when it is grey and gloomy. We are really blessed living here in Sydney, that we experience very few dull and gloomy days, even in the middle of winter.

It is interesting that Jesus used light as a metaphor for Himself. Our text today, is one of the great “I AM” teaching passages. Jesus said:” ***I am the Light of the world.***” We cannot fully describe God, because we cannot fully comprehend God. The closest we can get, and that is still a long way off, is the sun. The sun has tremendous power/energy; and it shines across the whole world. No-one can look directly at it, and we are dependent upon it for our very life. Without the sun this world does not and cannot function. Therefore, it is not hard to understand why Jesus used light as a teaching tool.

Without Him, we cannot exist. Without Him, we do not have life. If God were to remove His breath from us, we would die instantly. We, like all things are completely dependent upon Him. Whether we believe this or not, it is true. Our unbelief does not change reality. What faith does is that it brings us into this Light. When we believe in His Word and have faith in Him, then God brings us into the Light of His presence.

Sadly, many people live their lives in darkness. They walk in the dark. They go through life existing, when they could be living. So many go through life, hardly giving God a second thought. This unfortunately is reflected in their lives. There are so many who believe that they are enlightened, yet they are not. If God isn't at the foundation of your thinking, then you are in the dark. Solomon wrote:

***"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10***

When we fear God, when we trust in Him, when we walk with Him, He makes us wise. He gives light to our path and enlightens our minds. One example I could use to try to illustrate this is the headlights in our car. If you are driving along an unlit road, in the night, you rely upon the headlights of your car to see the road ahead of you. Where possible, you put them on high beam, as that gives more light and you can see further ahead. When the way ahead is well lit up, it is much safer driving. You can see hazards before you reach them.

The Bible tells us that God's Word is our light. We read:

***"Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path." Ps.119:105***

God's Word is the light that shows us the way. Let's think about a very important word – consequences. This is something that many people don't like to, or simply don't think about. I believe that a great deal of our problems we face are a result of people not thinking about consequences. If I do this or that, then where will that lead me? What are the consequences of the action that I am taking? These are questions that God's Word helps us to answer. This is why our, and God's enemy Satan, tries to keep us away from the Bible, to discourage us from reading it. He doesn't want us to be enlightened and informed.

The Devil's method is now. Do it now. If you want to, feel like it, just do it. It's your life. Do what you want. Then later when the consequences of your life come back to meet you, you say "If only I had sat down and thought about it. If only I had..." We can avoid negative consequences and a lot of heartache and pain and troubles, if we weigh up every situation in the Spirit. If we walk in the Light of God's Word.

Jesus said:

"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." John 8:12

The key to a successful life is to follow Jesus, to walk in the Spirit. To live in constant fellowship with Him. We need to ask Him to lead us, guide us, sustain us, to allow Him to live through us. When you do this, you not only walk in the Light, you are the light.

Jesus taught:

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Mt.5:14-16

When we believe in Jesus and live with Him, then we become light, a light that reflects His glory. That is what we should be. Our life should reflect His love, His Word. The more we walk in His Light, the brighter we will shine. The Apostle Paul gives us great teaching on this, and shows us what this light looks like. We read:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; “ Gal.5:22-23

This is the fruit of The Holy Spirit. This fruit grows and ripens in God’s Light. The more light this fruit receives the bigger it grows. This fruit is beautiful and it is found where God’s light is shining in a person’s life. The stark contrast is found in Paul’s description of the works of the sinful flesh:

“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. “ Gal.5:19-21

These two lists are in stark contrast one to the other. They are like night and day. The person who does not live in God’s light, walks in the darkness and this life is manifested in the deeds of the flesh. The person who lives and walks in God’s light, manifests the beautiful fruit of the Holy Spirit.

We need to have a good look in the mirror and see whether our life is reflecting the fruit of the Spirit or manifesting the works of the flesh.

May we strive to always walk in the Light so that our lives would be a light for others, and that we so shine that it brings glory to our Heavenly Father.

Where the Light shines, darkness is repelled.

May we shine brightly for God.

Amen

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