

## Out of Darkness

It is better to light just one little \_\_\_\_\_ than to stumble in the dark. Light is so precious! Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a \_\_\_\_\_ to my feet And a \_\_\_\_\_ to my path.” God’s glorious Word is such a blessing to our lives. It opens up the \_\_\_\_\_ for us to see the things that God wants us to know, things that will guide us safely and bless us. God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to know the truth, so He sheds light on the things that matter most. He opens the way for us to live with Him eternally in \_\_\_\_\_. God is light, and we can be \_\_\_\_\_ for all that He has done for us.

Have you ever gone down into a \_\_\_\_\_ on a tour when the guide turns out all the lights? Total darkness is frightening. I’m always grateful when the \_\_\_\_\_ come back on. When you can’t see anything you feel \_\_\_\_\_ and vulnerable. You don’t know what \_\_\_\_\_ lurk around you. The Lord struck Egypt with a plague of darkness that could be felt. According to Exodus 10:22-23, the Egyptians could not see one another and did not rise from their places for three days. This darkness plagued and punished them, and it separated them from one another. It must have been a frightening, long, and lonely three days.

Spiritual darkness has some of these same frightening \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord speaks of hell as being \_\_\_\_\_ into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8-12). Spiritual blindness is a form of darkness and leads to certain judgment, but the Lord shows us the way out of darkness into His marvelous light. I think, what a blessing!

### **Our reading today comes from 1 Peter 2:9-10.**

We sometimes speak of being “in the dark” to mean someone simply doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ what’s going on. We lose much when we don’t know Christ or the \_\_\_\_\_ that can set us free. Knowledge is not some small \_\_\_\_\_. God’s teaching prepares us to \_\_\_\_\_ worthy of our calling in this life and prepares us for eternity. When people don’t know the Lord they fall into many \_\_\_\_\_ ways. What we know and how well we follow the Lord’s teaching measures our \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord wants to \_\_\_\_\_ us in righteousness so we can live with Him forever. When people don’t know the Lord or take Him seriously they end up in a spiritual and moral darkness that \_\_\_\_\_ everybody.

God left \_\_\_\_\_ of His infinite power and wisdom in the universe. Romans 1:20 says, “For since the creation of the world His \_\_\_\_\_ attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” Some men, even when the evidence is before them, do not want to acknowledge God or \_\_\_\_\_ from Him.

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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**Read Romans 1:21-23.** The ancient, pagan cultures didn't know God and were \_\_\_\_\_ with cruelty, lust, and greed. Their foolish \_\_\_\_\_ were darkened morally and spiritually. Spiritual darkness ruins \_\_\_\_\_ and ruins societies. Ignorance of God threatens the \_\_\_\_\_ and welfare of any nation. Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the \_\_\_\_\_ whose God is the Lord." The more any nation pushes God out of its thinking and its morals, the more it \_\_\_\_\_ itself. The more families forget God and live for themselves, the more bitter their lives become. The Lord's way is not simply one choice among many; it's the only way to true and lasting joy and peace. Every other choice will ultimately lead to darkness.

The Bible describes the hopelessness of life \_\_\_\_\_ God. **Read God's Word in Ephesians 4:17-19.** Knowing God \_\_\_\_\_ morally, spiritually, and practically.

Spiritual darkness comes from attitudes and \_\_\_\_\_, whether we serve God or we serve material and fleshly things. The Lord Jesus said, "The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Then \_\_\_\_\_ that the light in you is not darkness. If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the \_\_\_\_\_ illumines you with its rays" (Luke 11:34-36).

The Lord Jesus understood that people often turn to \_\_\_\_\_ and aren't willing to do what is right. He said, "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men \_\_\_\_\_ the darkness rather than the Light, for their \_\_\_\_\_ were evil. For everyone who does evil \_\_\_\_\_ the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the \_\_\_\_\_ comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God" (John 3:19-21).

When we focus on God and following His way we \_\_\_\_\_ in the good light of life; but when we focus on selfish desires, we \_\_\_\_\_ in evil darkness. We \_\_\_\_\_ our actions from others. We can even get to the point that we despise what is good and right and we \_\_\_\_\_ what is evil and wrong. In darkness, people would rather believe a \_\_\_\_\_ than love the truth. Evil people despise those who want to do what is right because they don't want their evil ways to be \_\_\_\_\_. A godly person who seeks to do right is never \_\_\_\_\_ of being exposed. He wants his deeds to glorify God.

The apostle Paul \_\_\_\_\_ light with darkness. He clearly shows how immorality, impurity, and greed will \_\_\_\_\_ people out of heaven. **Read what the Bible says in Ephesians 5:6-12.** God has called us to live \_\_\_\_\_ lives in all goodness and righteousness and truth!

How do we move out of the darkness and get into the light? We must be rescued; and we need God's \_\_\_\_\_. Colossians 1:13-14 says, "He (that is, God) has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the \_\_\_\_\_ of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." I'm thankful that we have a Savior who was willing to sacrifice Himself to \_\_\_\_\_ us from sin. Christ rescues us by redeeming us with His innocent \_\_\_\_\_ and grants to us the forgiveness of sins. The Lord Jesus "gave Himself for our sins so

that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God and Father” (Galatians 1:4).

The grace of Christ is not designed merely to \_\_\_\_\_ sin. The Lord wants new people who \_\_\_\_\_ their ways. Titus 2:11-14 says, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to \_\_\_\_\_ ungodliness and worldly desires and to \_\_\_\_\_ sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who \_\_\_\_\_ Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” This is the light of life!

When the Lord called Paul to be an apostle, He revealed to Paul \_\_\_\_\_ He had chosen him to preach to the Gentiles. The Bible says that Christ sent Paul, “to open their eyes so that they may \_\_\_\_\_ from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:18). Faith in Christ makes a difference. That faith comes by \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God (Romans 10:17), and the power of God to save still works through the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:16). The power to change comes from hearing the gospel. God sent Paul to preach. His message about Christ can open their \_\_\_\_\_ to what’s right and good. It can tell them the difference between right and wrong, good and evil. It can \_\_\_\_\_ Satan’s power over their lives so that they can live for God. It’s no wonder that Paul said, “For I determined to know \_\_\_\_\_ among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). There’s \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s Word to touch our hearts, to free us from the hold of sin, and to motivate us to serve God and love others. God’s transforming power will not leave you where it found you.

When you come to the Light you come to a marvelous light. Peter describes it in 1 Peter 2:9-10 and tells what it means to be a Christian. He said, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his (that is, God’s) own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who \_\_\_\_\_ you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

People who were formerly \_\_\_\_\_ and godless become very different once they become Christians. Before they were not a people and didn’t have the mercy of God; but in Christ they become God’s people with God’s \_\_\_\_\_. God’s people are a chosen race. They are people for God’s own possession. God’s people make up a royal priesthood. They are kingly priests offering up \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices to God. They are a holy nation, and their \_\_\_\_\_ is to proclaim the excellencies of God! God has \_\_\_\_\_ them out of darkness into the light, and it is a marvelous light!

The Lord Jesus said, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and

does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:46-48). The Lord doesn’t want His people to \_\_\_\_\_ in spiritual darkness. He gave them His Word to open their eyes to an \_\_\_\_\_ life filled with goodness and blessing.

The same Word that is a blessing will also be the \_\_\_\_\_ of our judgment. God gives light in the Word to \_\_\_\_\_ us. If we ignore that light, we put our \_\_\_\_\_ in danger. The Lord Jesus pictured the Pharisees who were blinded by their commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ traditions. The Lord said, “Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will \_\_\_\_\_ into a pit” (Matthew 15:14). People blinded by human ideas frequently fail to see the glory and the beauty of the \_\_\_\_\_. They reject the very thing they most need.

God’s light is not weak or dim; it’s a marvelous light. First John 1:5 reminds us that “God is Light, and in Him there is \_\_\_\_\_ darkness at all.” The Lord 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 \_\_\_\_\_” (John 8:12). The marvelous light is life itself. This life is abundant, and it is \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord said to the Father, “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). Our eternal life begins with knowing the only true God and His Son Jesus Christ.

**Read 1 John 2:3-6.** The marvelous light shines on those who know Him, love Him, and obey Him. Do you?

First John 1:6-7 says, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we \_\_\_\_\_ and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” There are only two paths, one leads to life and the other leads to destruction.

Because people choose their path, they choose their \_\_\_\_\_. God, however, graciously gives us the opportunity to change our path and to change our relationship with Him. We can always leave the dark path and come to the light. There’s no greater blessing than to have fellowship with God and to be cleansed from all sin by the blood of His Son.

First Timothy 2:3-4 says, “This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” God gives us the light of the gospel to \_\_\_\_\_ us to heaven and avoid the dark destruction that evil and ignorance brings. God opens the \_\_\_\_\_ to knowledge through the Word. When we \_\_\_\_\_ the Word, God grants us life.

To respond to the gospel, believe with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Repent by changing your heart and your life; leave the old way of sin and follow the teaching of the Lord. Confess Jesus as the Christ before others, and be baptized into Jesus and His death. When you’re baptized, the Lord applies that cleansing blood to your soul (Romans 6:3) and He washes away your sins (Acts 22:16). Why not come to God’s light today and make a difference in your eternal destiny? You won’t regret doing what’s right.