

"Out of Darkness"

It is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark. Light is so precious! Hello, I'm Phil Sanders. And this is a Bible study, "In SEARCH of the Lord's Way." Today we're going to explore the blessing God's light, so stay with us.

Welcome to In Search of the Lord's Way; we're here to search God's Word for the God's will. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path." God's glorious Word is such a blessing to our lives. It opens up the way for to see the things that God wants us to know, things that will guide us safely and bless us. God wants us to be saved 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 heaven. God is light, and we can be thankful for all that He has done for us. We're delighted that you've joined us today. And we want to be a part of your life each week.

Have you ever gone down into a cave on a tour when the guide turns out all the lights? I've had that experience a few times, and total darkness is frightening. I'm always grateful when the lights come back on. When you can't see anything, you feel lost and vulnerable. You don't know what dangers lurk around you. You'll remember the Lord struck Egypt with a plague of darkness, and that could be felt. According to Exodus 10:22 to 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 features. The Lord speaks of hell—in part—as being cast into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8 verse 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. And I think what a blessing!

If you want to study more about this topic of God's light, we offer this information on the program free. If you'd like a printed copy or a CD of our study, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also stream this program on our website at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org).

The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from 1 Peter 2:9 to 10, and explore the idea of coming out of darkness.

Our reading today comes from 1 Peter chapter 2 verses 9 and 10 and this is one of the most beautiful descriptions of the people of God.

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *god's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Oh, what a great blessing it is to be a child of God and to have received mercy. Let's pray together. Father we are grateful for all of the blessing that You've given to us. And we know that Your love shows so brightly that we could be called Your children. Father help us to live like Your children and to glorify Your name. It's in the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

We sometimes speak of being "in the dark" to mean someone simply doesn't know what's going on. We lose much when we don't know Christ or the truth that can set us free. Knowledge is not some small gift. God's teaching prepares us to walk worthy of our calling in this life and prepares us for eternity. When people don't know the Lord, they fall into many harmful ways. What we know and how

well we follow the Lord's teaching measures our character. The Lord wants to shape 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 harms everybody.

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

Romans 1:21 to 23 says, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures." The ancient, pagan cultures didn't know God and were filled with cruelty, lust, and greed. Their foolish hearts were darkened morally and spiritually.

Spiritual darkness ruins lives and ruins societies. Ignorance of God threatens the peace and welfare of any nation. Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." The more any nation pushes God out of its thinking and its morals, the more it destroys 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 without God in Ephesians 4:17 to 19. God's Word says, "So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness." I tell ya knowing God matters morally, spiritually, and practically.

Spiritual darkness comes from attitudes and choices, whether we serve God or we serve material and fleshly things. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 11:34 to 36, that, "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 watch out 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 lamp illumines you with its rays."

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

When we focus on God and following His way, we stand in the good light of life; but when we focus on selfish desires, we remain in evil darkness. We hide our actions from others. We can even get to the point that we despise what is good and right and we love what is evil and wrong. In darkness, people would rather believe a lie 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 revealed. A godly person who seeks to do right is never afraid of being exposed. He wants his deeds to glorify God.

The apostle Paul contrasts light with darkness in Ephesians 5. He clearly shows how immorality, impurity, and greed will keep people out of heaven. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:6 to 12, "Let no one

deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret." God has called us to live holy lives in all goodness and righteousness and truth!

Well, how do we move out of the darkness and get into the light? Well, we must be rescued; and we need God's help. Colossians 1:13 to 14 says, that, "He [that is God] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Oh, I'm thankful that we have a Savior, who was willing to sacrifice Himself to rescue us from sin. Now, Christ rescues us by redeeming us with His innocent blood 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 will of our God and Father." (Galatians 1 verse 4)

But the grace of Christ is not designed merely to forgive sin. The Lord wants new people who change their ways. Titus 2:11 to 14 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live 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 gave 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 why He had chosen him to preach to the Gentiles. The Bible says in Acts 26:18 that Christ sent Paul, "to open their eyes so that they may turn 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." Faith in Christ makes a difference. And that faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10 and verse 17), and the power of God to save still works through the gospel (Romans 1 and verse 16).

The power to change comes from hearing the gospel. God sent Paul to preach. And his message about Christ can open their eyes to what's right and good. It can tell them the difference between right and wrong, good and evil. And it can break Satan's power over their lives so that they can live for God. You know it's no wonder that Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2 and verse 2, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." There's power 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 and verses 9 and 10. And it tells there 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 called 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 lost 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 mercy. 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 spiritual sacrifices to God.

They are a holy nation, and their purpose is to proclaim the excellencies of God! God has led them out of darkness into the light, and it is a marvelous light!

The Lord Jesus said in John 12:46 to 48, "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. (Then he says,) 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." The Lord doesn't want His people to remain in spiritual darkness. He gave them His Word to open their eyes to an abundant life filled with goodness and blessing.

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

Now, God's light is not weak or dim; it's a marvelous light.<sup>1</sup> John 1 and verse 5 reminds us that "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." The Lord Jesus said in John 8 and verse 12, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." The marvelous light is life itself. This life is abundant, and it is eternal. The Lord said to the Father in John 17:3, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Our eternal life begins with knowing the only true God and His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 2 verses 3 to 6 says, "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." Now the marvelous light shines on those who know Him, love Him, and obey Him. Do you?

Let's pray together. Oh Heavenly Father we're thankful that through Your word You have shed light on our lives. That You've given us a path to walk, so that we may come out of the spiritual darkness of this world and be able to come into the spiritual light and live with You. Not only peacefully and lovingly in this life but have eternal life with You forever in heaven. And Father we pray that You will help us to love You and to serve You always. In Jesus name, Amen.

1 John 1:6 to 7 says, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie 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 in this world, one leads to life and the other leads to destruction.

Because people choose their path, they choose their destination. 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.

1 Timothy 2 verses 3 to 4 says, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." God gives us the light of the gospel to lead us to heaven and avoid the dark destruction that evil and ignorance brings. God opens the door to knowledge through the Word. And when we obey 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. And when you're baptized, the Lord applies that cleansing blood to your soul (Romans 6 and verse 3) and He washes away your sins (Acts 22 and verse 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.

Well, we hope this study of Light and Darkness has blessed you or challenged you. If you want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org).

Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now, our programs appear on our website [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). And there's also a schedule of our programs there's also a map with the location of churches that may be in your area. You can watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry." We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now, don't worry, if you try to get a hold of us, we're not her begging for money. We're here to help you get to heaven. And to lead you to the Lord Jesus.

We do ask that you get your heart focused on God today. And do it by worshiping at church. There's probably a church of Christ that's in your area. And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. Well, we'll be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about the program and encourage them to watch. Help them to find the truth too. God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.