

# Light Brings Salt

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## Iron Range Bible Church

*Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God*  
*"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."*



### Light and Darkness

**Pastor John Griffith**

The apostle John in 1 John 1:6-7 exhorts the believer to walk in the light and not in darkness. What is the importance of this for each of us in our lives? We'll examine this from several directions to see what the Word has to say.

#### Contrasts between Light and darkness

John has drawn a sharp distinction in this context, but what does Scripture as a whole have to say?

In Eph 2 Paul set the contrast between what we were as unbelievers and what we are now as believers by saying in 2:1 "you were dead" but now we are "made alive in Christ." 2:5

Here in this context [1 Jn] John once again introduces us to two metaphors in order to convey the contrast between what we were and what we now are! Darkness and light!

Paul used these 2 metaphors also in Eph 5:8-10.

He does so to emphasize the strong contrast between God's truth, His revelation and all who oppose it! In fact let's go back and look at this context in some detail. **Read Eph. 5:8-10**

He is not saying that as an unbeliever that they lived in darkness, although they did; but that they were darkness!

Conversely as a believer they do not live in light; **they are light!**

As unbelievers we were so permeated by the realm of evil, the course of this world which is

under the authority of the prince of the power of the air; that we personified that realm, in thinking and actions.

But now as a believer as a result of regeneration you are not just "in the light" but because of your vital union with Christ, who is the light of the world, then you are also light!

And now what John is exhorting us is that we are **to walk in the light as He is in the light.**

**Paul says we have an obligation [5:8] with a command:** "walk as children of light."

The contrast between religion [darkness] and Christianity [light] is this:

Religion says **Do in order to become!**

Christianity says **Do because you are!**

We are to Walk in light because we **ARE** light **in Him!**

Let your position in Christ overflow into your practice, your life. Become imitators of God as beloved children as Paul said in 5:1!

#### Observations on Light and Darkness

1. Just how dark is the world, the country, the city, the family that the light of God's word has not illuminated? Need to consider!
2. What were we before we responded to the gospel? were in Darkness? Eph 5:8; "but now" sets the contrast with our present state.
3. Implications of darkness: being in a state of darkness:

- a. You are unable to see the reality of what surrounds you! not able to comprehend spiritual reality at all.
  - b. Any movement within a sphere of darkness is uncertain, ability is impaired, or may cause one to stumble.
  - c. When in darkness one who is familiar with the surroundings has the potential of manipulating you. That is Satan and false teachers who know the darkness best. This is the reason for the warning not to be deceived by empty words.
  - d. The only sure way of conquering darkness is to have a source of light.
4. The only source of light for the spiritual darkness of the world is Jesus Christ. John 8:12; 1:4-5;
  5. Man's natural tendency is not to move to the light! Jn 3:19 It is the convicting ministry of H/S to wake man up to his need! (Jn 16:7-11 )
  6. Must recognize that darkness is the rule, the dominion of Satan. Acts 26:15-18;  
Eph 2:2 "walked according to the course of this world under the authority of the prince of the power of the air"
  7. At salvation we were delivered from **the domain of darkness**. Col. 1:13
  8. Since we are delivered from the power of darkness we should no longer walk in darkness, our life being characterized by darkness. Experientially know that whether we are walking in light or darkness is a chosen condition. (Jn 8:12; Eph 4:17-18; Eph 5:8-11)
  9. If we choose to walk in darkness we have no fellowship with God. (point of 1 Jn 1)
  10. Our source of light for our life is His truth, the Word of God.
    - Ps 43:3 and gives us capacity for relationship with Him.
    - Ps 119:105 source of guidance and direction for life; in the practical issues of life.

The Psalmist is saying that in the darkness that surrounds me, the only thing that dissipates it is the word of God!

The Word guides the feet and its the feet that carries you through life!

- Ps 119:130, see the nature of the word, a characteristic of it! The idea here of the unfolding of the Word is that as we approach the word, paging through it, learning more and more of God's truth, it begins to unfold to our understanding.

Txln: The unfolding of, the exposition of, the expounding of your words, truth, gives light!

The idea that the Psalmist brings to us here is that as new believers, its a shut book, in the sense of we start with basically a clean slate as far as DVPT is concerned, but as we get into the Word, its clear coherent message begins to unfold to us and the light increases as our understanding increases.

11. God mediates His light, WOG, to mankind in this dispensation through lamp stands and stars! Rev 1:20

- As believers we share Christ's life! His nature and therefore we are to exhibit His character in our lives; [experiential]

Our conduct as a believer is to follow our nature!

I would take it that to walk as children of light, as Paul emphasizes it in Eph. 5 is related to becoming imitators of God! Eph 5:1

**To walk in the light** is to reflect the holiness of God in our life.

**But what does it mean to walk in light?? Verses 5:9-10 explain!**

Vs:9 is a parenthesis that explains what this cmd at the end of vs:8 to walk or live as children [teknon] means!

Since light is known by its effects so also the believer should be known by the fruit of his/her life. When the light of Christ shines through the life of the believer it produces 3 characteristics:

#1 goodness; αγαθυσυνη speaks of moral excellence; w/generosity

#2 righteousness; δικαιοσυνη quality of "rightness" from God's viewpoint; knowing what is right and doing it consistently

#3 truth; αληθεια here we have the quality of honesty and genuineness; not just something to be said but to be done! [also 4:15]

### **Eph. 5:10 helps also to explain the exhortation of vs:8 to walk in the light!**

- "trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." Lit: "proving what is pleasing to the Lord."

δοκιμαζω; to approve after examination; speaks to carrying out a careful examination;

Always there is the idea of an objective standard for the evaluation or the examination for approval this approval. The standard here is what? That which pleases the Lord! So the standard of examination and approval is the **Directive Will of God (DWOG).**

As children of light; we need to continually analyze our thoughts, our words, our actions, in order to bring our lives into conformity to the will of God; Result is a life that is pleasing to the Lord!! That is walking in the light!!

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## **Anti-Evolutionary Behavior**

*Psalm 14:1a*

The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'

When the Bible talks about things in the material world that are part of our experience, we find that the Bible is always faithfully true. But there are many things in the creation which contradict the theory of evolution.

For example, Darwin said that natural selection could never produce anything for the sole benefit of another species. However, Darwin's rule doesn't hold true. Previous Creation Moments have presented some examples of creatures that help other creatures to their own detriment.

Today we go to the ants for yet another example. A

number of ant species actually help another species to its own harm. Robber ants will take the larvae of a certain beetle into their nests to nurture and raise. Not only do robber ants neglect their own larvae to do this, but they will actually feed their own larvae to the beetle larvae. For some reason which scientists don't understand, the queen ant in such a colony often becomes sterile, and eventually the entire colony dies.

For over fifteen years now and on a daily basis, Creation Moments has been bringing you examples of relationships in nature that totally contradict the theory of evolution. May we suggest that our all-knowing Creator purposefully created these altruistic relationships in order to confound men's wisdom when they chose to reject Him as Creator.

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### **Frontiers of Junk Science: Global warming snow job melting?**

According to a recent National Center for Policy Analysis report, last year's declaration of impending doom from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the form of its Fourth Assessment Report was based on opinion instead of science. As hard data continues to emerge, global warming becomes increasingly difficult to defend. Hundreds of highly qualified scientists and climatologists unrelated to the UN's IPCC pocket-science squad are contesting the assumption of so-called "experts" that CO2 is the primary force driving climate change. A number of scientists discount the warming theory entirely. In fact, many believe that the globe may be getting cooler—and some of them are putting their money where their mouths are. Believing that the world will be cooler in ten years, a pair of Russian scientists have even waged a \$10,000 bet with British climate "expert" and global-warming alarmist James Annan. Meanwhile, China is battling its coldest winter in a century. Scores of people are dead and millions are stranded. Will Leftmedia shills report the events there with newfound skepticism for global warming? Don't count on it.