

**12.01.19 ~ Ephesians 5:8-14, Letting God's Light Shine Through You**

Read through **Ephesians 5:7-14**.

**Ephesians 5:8** tells us that all of us, at one time, lived in darkness, guilty of sin, separated from the light and life of God, but now, as Christians, we are to live as God's children (**Ephesians 5:1**).

Rejecting Christ leaves you in **darkness**, apart from God. Believing in Christ brings you into the **light** where you receive life from God.

**John 1:1-4** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men."*

**John 8:12** *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."*

**John 12:46** *"I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness."*

**2Corinthians 6:14** *"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?"*

**1Peter 2:9** *"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."*

Read **1John 1:5-7**. John declares, "God is light" and in Him there is no darkness. "Light" is synonymous with God's righteousness, referring to all that is God's truth; "darkness," on the other hand, refers to all that is false, all that does not please nor reflect God.

God's Word, from beginning to end, demonstrates God's plan to separate light from darkness, forever (cf. **Genesis 1:1-4; Revelation 21:23-24; 22:3-5**).

In **Ephesians 5:9** Paul tells us that the fruit [or result] of God's Light is *goodness, righteousness, and truth*, and those who belong to Christ will walk in the Light, in obedience to God's Word.

Jesus made it clear (**John 14:6**), He is the way, the truth and the life; and so, we are told (**Ephesians 5:10**) to learn [and do] what is pleasing to the Lord.

**Romans 12:9** *"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good."*

If we love [obey] the Lord we will hate what He hates and seek what He says is good. **Ephesians 5:11** commands us to not participate in the fruitless deeds of darkness; and not only are we to avoid such godlessness, we are also to expose it, to uncover it for everyone to see.

To ignore evil is to encourage it; to keep quiet about it is to promote it. We must boldly reprove, even stand against, evil; for we are God's witnesses of goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Read **1John 1:8-10**. Everyone is a sinner! But those who confess and repent of sin, trusting Christ to save them, receive forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus Christ is the Sovereign Judge and He declares that we are acquitted, set free from sins penalty, forever (see **John 5:24; Romans 8:1**).

Paul now warns us (**Ephesians 5:12**) that some things done by evil men are so vile that they should not even be discussed, even describing them can be morally and spiritually hazardous. Instead of giving attention to the foul details of such filth, we ought to pronounce God's judgment, calling it what it is, sin.

**Ephesians 5:13** tells us that everything exposed by the light is made known. Children of light are to imitate of God, to hold everything up to the Light of Scripture to expose, rebuke, correct, even to hate, all that dishonors God.

**Ephesians 5:14** says the light and truth of God's Holy Word, through the work of God's Spirit, exposes all sin, and those who are spiritually dead can be made alive only in Christ, through repentance of sin and belief in the Savior.

**John 16:8-9** declares that the Holy Spirit has come into the world to convict the world of its guilt in regard to sin, the sin of not believing in God's Son.

Paul offers an invitation here to all who are not children of light, so that they might come to the light of Christ and be saved, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Unbelievers are spiritually dead [asleep] in the darkness of sin, unaware of their lost condition and the judgment of God's Wrath to come; and for the most part they do not like the children of the God they reject.

God wants to wake them up so that they might repent and turn away from the sin, for God has provided a remedy for the death and darkness of sin, eternal life through the Christ, who is the Light of God.

**1Timothy 2:3-4**, "God our Savior, ...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Speaking to those who believe in Him, Jesus said (**Matthew 5:14, 16**) "You are the light of the world." ..."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."

Has anyone come up to you lately and asked you what that Light is that is shining from within you? Probably not! But if you are a Christian (a believer and follower of Christ), you will desire for the Light of Christ to be seen in and through your life, so that, when an unbeliever asks you what that source of the Light is, you can tell them it is Jesus Christ: God's Son, Savior and Lord, who died on a cross to take their punishment, was then buried in a tomb, but on the third day, He rose from the grave alive, in order to demonstrate His sovereign authority over sin, death and judgement; and He is coming back to take all those who belong to Him, to be with Him forever, to a place where there will be no darkness, and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain, for all those things are gone. And all God's people said? Amen!

*Pastor Mike*