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## **THE LIGHT VS. THE DARKNESS**

By Marc Gibson

Everyone understands the difference between light and darkness. When you enter a dark room and turn on the light, what a big difference it makes to be able to see what is in the room. The terms “Light” and “Darkness” are often used to illustrate two opposite ideas. Things associated with “Light” are the opposite of things associated with “darkness.”

The Bible recognizes these two opposites by asking the question, “what communion has light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14). Certain things in the Bible are associated with either light or darkness, and they represent very opposite ideas. Notice first the things that are associated with the **LIGHT**.

### **What God Is**

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that *God is light* and in Him is no darkness at all” (I Jn. 1:5). God embodies the ideals of light: revelation, truth, knowledge, and love. God is good to all men, revealing His mind so that we might understand the truth. Jesus, the Son of God said, said, “I am *the light of the world*” (John 8:12:9:5).

### **Where God Dwells**

“He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, *dwelling in unapproachable light*, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen” (I Tim. 6:15-16). God dwells in light that man, of his own power, cannot approach. This indicates to us the glory and power of God. Compare this to when Jesus was transfigured and “His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as *white as the light*” (Matt. 17:2).

### **Where Man Walks with God**

“But if we *walk in the light* as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (I John 1:7). Since God is light and dwells in the light, we must “walk” in the light to have fellowship with God. The idea of “walk” is our daily path of life. We must be faithful to God and His word in our everyday walk of life. If we are faithful, then we will have fellowship with God and receive cleansing from sin by the blood of Christ (if we confess our sins, v. 9). Christians have been called into God’s marvelous light (I Pet. 2:9). What a wonderful blessing to walk in the light of God!

## Seen in the Gospel Message

“Whose mind the god of this world has blinded, who do not believe, *lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ*, who is the image of God, should shine on them...For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give *the light of the knowledge of the glory of God* in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4,6). The light in which we are to walk is revealed in the gospel of Christ. There we gain the knowledge by which to live in the light of truth.

## Exposes what is Error

“But all things that are exposed are made *manifest by the light*, for whatever makes manifest is light” (Eph. 5:13). “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (Jn. 3:20). The revealed light of truth exposes the dark dangers that threaten men’s souls. By this we can avoid the many hazards of error and false teaching. The light of God is where we should dwell now and for eternity (Rev. 22:5).

Having looked at the things associated with the light, we now turn to its opposite, the things of darkness. Total darkness has been aptly described as the absence of all light. There are many who hate the light and love darkness (John 3:19-20). Notice the things that are associated with the **DARKNESS**.

## Living in Sin

“*For you were once darkness*, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8). Before we become a Christian, we are under the “power of darkness (Col. 1:13). Even as a Christian, we can “walk in darkness” and practice the “works of darkness” (I Jn. 1:6; Rom. 13:12). This is the opposite of “walking in the light,” or striving to obey God. We serve either God or sin — we either walk in the light or in the darkness. Men whose deeds are evil love the darkness (Jn. 3:19). Works of sin and the flesh are part of the darkness of evil (I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21). We should have nothing to do with such things!

## Evil Rulers

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against *the rulers of the darkness of this age*, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12). There are those who rule in the darkness. The supreme ruler is Satan himself, the prince of darkness and sin. Those given over to his ways, whether on earth, or in the heavenly realm, are those who are “rulers of the darkness.” These evil ones prefer lies and deception instead of the truth. We must be wary of their influence and false teachings.

## Evil Power

“He has delivered us *from the power of darkness* and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13). The darkness has power, though not enough to defeat our God Who dwells in the light. The power of darkness can deceive and destroy our souls if we are not constantly watchful and ready (I Pet. 5:8). Do not take the power of darkness for granted — watch and be sober as “sons of light and sons of the day” (I Thess. 5:5-6).

### **Unfruitful works**

“And have no fellowship with *the unfruitful works of darkness*, but rather expose them” (Eh. 5:11). A life of sin is a wasted life. Deeds done in the darkness of sin damage and destroy the soul. We should cast off evil deeds and seek the good works that God has prepared for men (Rm. 13:12; Eph. 2:10).

### **Where Evil will be Punished**

“And cast the unprofitable serant into the *outer darkness*. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 25:30). The darkness of eternal punishment will not be a place of enjoyment for Satan, his angels, or ungodly men. It will be a terrifying fate in the “gloom” and “*blackness of darkness*” (2 Pet. 2:17; Jude 13). If you love the darkness of sin, you will be cast into the punishment of outer darkness forever separated from the blessings and comfort of God!

### **Conclusion**

It should be easy to see that we should be associated with the things of the light and not the things of the darkness. Thankfully, God is light and His word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway (Psalms 119:105). Our heavenly home will be a place of eternal light because God will be there (Rev. 21:22-25). Be diligent today to live faithfully in the light of His truth that you may avoid the pitfalls of the deceptive darkness of sin.

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