

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Introduction

- 1) **Colossians 1:9-14** – contains a contrast between two opposite forces
 - a) “Partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the **light**” (v. 12)
 - b) “He has delivered us from the power of **darkness**” (v. 13)
- 2) Our lives are a struggle between opposing forces (2 Cor. 6:14-16; Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 6:12)
 - a) Light/darkness, good/evil, truth/error, God/Satan, church/world, righteousness/wickedness
 - b) **Not equal** opposing forces (like two teams exerting opposing forces on a rope – tug-a-war)
 - c) One force is greater and far superior to the other – one is right, the other is wrong
- 3) How goes your life? Are you stumbling in the darkness or walking in the light?

I) In the Beginning

A) **Genesis 1:1-4**

- 1) Complete darkness was in the beginning, then God created light
- 2) God divided the light from the darkness – one is made distinct from the other

B) Light and darkness became metaphors for opposing forces of truth and error

- 1) God makes the “light” shine for mankind (Jn. 1:4-9; 2 Cor. 4:6)
- 2) Man is to avoid the danger of the “darkness” (Prov. 2:10-13; 4:19; Matt. 15:14)

II) Light is Superior to the Darkness

- A) “Wisdom excels folly, as light excels darkness” (Eccl. 2:13)
- B) There is no darkness in God – no exception, no compromise (1 Jn. 1:5)
- C) God desires that men dwell in the light of His truth (Jn. 12:46)
- D) There is *no* communion (fellowship) between light and darkness (2 Cor. 6:14)
 - 1) The “yin yang” ☯ of Taoism is a human philosophy of equal balance and interconnectedness between good and bad, falsely claiming that such moral distinctions and judgments are only perceptions and not reality – led to the error of modern relativism
 - a) Similar to the moral confusion and error in times past (Judg. 21:25; Isa. 5:20)

III) Why Do Some Prefer the Darkness?

- A) Some prefer the darkness because their deeds are evil (Jn. 3:19-21; 2 Cor. 4:3-4)
 - 1) It seemingly provides secrecy and concealment of their evil deeds – a false hope!
 - 2) God can see all things “concealed” in the darkness (Psa. 139:11-12; 1 Cor. 4:5)

IV) Jesus is God’s Light of Truth and the Bible the Divine Standard of Doctrine and Ethics

- A) The light of Jesus and His truth is where we need to dwell (Psa. 119:105; Jn. 8:12; Eph. 5:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Jn. 1:7; 2:8-11); we are to be a “light” (Matt. 5:14-16)
- B) God’s word provides the absolute, objective, and complete standard for doctrine, ethics, and morality (Prov. 3:5-6; Psa. 119:105; 2 Pet. 1:3)
- C) Man’s theories/standards justify immorality, deny absolute truth, and result in chaos and the destruction of individual lives and society (Prov. 14:12; Eph. 4:17-19)
- D) The darkness is a terrible place to be (Ex. 10:21-23; Prov. 4:19; Matt. 25:30; Jude 13)
- E) Let no one deceive you by mixing the light and darkness into so-called “gray areas”
 - 1) Such are attempts to undermine the teaching and authority of God’s word!

Conclusion

God put a cloud of **darkness and light** between the Egyptians and Israelites to separate His enemies from His people (Ex. 14:20). Which side are you on today? In heaven, there will be no night there; in hell, outer darkness. Where you walk **now** will determine your **eternity**!