

Lu 16:8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

4

Joh 12:36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

1Th 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

What a wonderful and glorious designation the Lord gives to His people: “Children of the Light” “Ye are the Light of the World.” I would like to make several observations concerning the meaning of this name that is given to the people of God.

Introduction: The word “light” is used as a figure for several things in the Scripture; not just once or twice, but over and over again. Because God is light, His work of the first day was to do with light. He did three things on the first day, according to Gen. 1:3-5 He created light; He separated it from the darkness; He named the light “Day.”

Then in the Scriptures He attached spiritual significance to each of these things. The light became a symbol for some very important things, as did the darkness. I want to make several observations of the use of the words “light” and “day” in Scripture. So there are four things to consider during this time. First, the Light of Knowledge; Second, the Light of Faith; Third, the Light of Good Works; Fourth, the Light of Opportunity.

- I. First, the Light of Knowledge and wisdom; We are to be children of Light with respect to knowledge
 - A. All light is God’s light, and His light shines in all knowledge and wisdom. Everything that is true is God’s truth, for the devil is a liar and a murderer.
 - B. Solomon wrote long ago that although wisdom and knowledge could not in themselves bring the ultimate satisfaction to men, yet wisdom is better than folly as much as light is better than darkness. Ecc. 2:13
 - C. There is a practical reason for this, for ignorance causes us no end of trouble and misery. This is true in health, in rearing of children, in business and finance, in agriculture and so forth.

Illustration; One the things I enjoyed the most when I was a boy was the Fourth of July trip we and our uncles’ families would make to Crater Lake, one of the worlds most spectacular lakes for in the crater of a volcano centuries ago in southern Oregon. We would chug up the mountain in our Model A Fords, leaving early in the morning and getting home late at night. Some special times we would take the loop around Klamath

Lake, over the Greensprings and into Medford. They were very special times for all the kids.

Very special were the chipmunks at Crater Lake, hundreds of them. We would take bread crusts, peanuts, cookies crumbs—all sorts of things—and they would come up at eat out of our hands. We loved the little things.

Years later as an adult with a family I returned to Crater Lake. There were now signs all over the place forbidding feeding human food to the chipmunks. It seems that human food caused them all sorts of diseases, including cancers. I thought how misguided we were as children. We loved the little creatures, and killed them.

Knowledge is far superior to ignorance. Jesus said to the woman of Samaria that the Samaritans did not know what they worshipped, and Paul wrote that the Gentiles sacrificed to devils. 1Cor. 10. Their minds were so dark that they “changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.” Romans 1. Solomon again said that “The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.” Proverbs 4:19

- D. As the children of Light, you and I are privileged and blessed to “know the joyful sound and walk in the light of God’s countenance. Psalm 89:15. That is, in his approval and blessing, knowing something of His glory and greatness, to live under the approval and blessing of the Creator and Lord of all creation.
- E. This means that the most important aspect of our calling as Christians, as children of the light, is to display the glory of God in our hearts, our minds, our wills and all our power, as the follow passages teach.
 1. 1Pe 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”: We are chosen for this purpose: to show forth the praise of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous Light. Sin is coming short of the glory of God, a dimming of the glory of God; hence, a work of darkness as we shall see.
 2. The prophets predicted that this great light of the gospel would be revealed. For instance: Isa 29:18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The knowledge of God would be revealed in the words of the book as Paul would write in 2 Timothy 3: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”
 3. In fact, the coming of the Gospel to you as His child is compared to the creation of light in the beginning: 2Co 4:6 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of

God in the face of Jesus Christ.” Jesus is the light of the world, for the light of God shines forth in Him through the reading of the New Testament, the apostle said.

F. Colossians 1:9-13. I would just read this and make a few comments as we go:

⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love....

II. Second, the Light of Faith.

- A. Unbelief is the darkness of the soul, a refusal to confess the light. 2Co 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”
- B. Jesus came as the light of the world: Joh 12:46 “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”
- C. Unbelief is willing darkness: 2Tim. 4: “3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
- D. Paul said he preached the Gospel in order “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” Ac 26:18
- E. Faith is part of the armor of the saints who are of the day, children of the light: 1Th 5:8 “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.” Notice that faith and love are connected to guard the heart; one cannot be separated from the other.

III. Third, the Light of Good Works;

- A. Good works are called light; evil works are called darkness. Mt 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Ro 13:12 “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”
- B. Ephesians 5:1-13
“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person,

nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose [bring to light, reprove, convince] *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. [They go hide when they do them, for they are ashamed, or should be.] ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. [This is the way you do it: you turn the light on.]”

IV. Fourth, the Light of Opportunity.

- A. To work in the day is to take advantage of the light; to do it when it is time to do it. Jesus said: Joh 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.
- B. Today is the day of salvation; Today is the accepted time. Do it now. Do not procrastinate for the night is coming when no man can work.
- C. Romans 13:10-14

¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

Application.

1. We must never be lazy in his search for knowledge, in reading, in hearing good preaching, in meditating. The Scripture is able to make you wise unto salvation.
2. Further, we must mix that knowledge with faith, for without faith it is impossible to please God. Israel’s knowledge and privilege was useless to them for they did not believe.
3. Faith must be followed with good works, for faith can be expressed in the world only by the deeds of the body.
4. Everything must be done in its time. We must be instant in season, out of season, always ready to speak the word. Pr 25:11 “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” The same can be said of good deeds and works of love. Pr 27:1 “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”