

From Beginning to End: Part 1

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Philippians 1:6 NLT

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi was a timely letter and this same message reaches our hearts for the next several weeks. Before anything can be done there must be a starting point. And once that something has begun there is a process that happens through the duration of the work. The work that is happening will eventually lead to consummation or to us we may say an end. We witness this in everything around that God created. This same beginning and end happens to us and within us.

Just as God created the universe and everything in it, it had a beginning and it will have an end. God created the heavens and one day it will end.

Genesis 1:1–2 NLT

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

The beginning is the starting point, the source of origin. And although most of us if not all of us are different ages. Our beginning is not the same and our end mostly likely will not be the same. But that hyphen between those two dates is where we are right now. And we will get to the hyphen as we move along in this series but we must first establish the beginning.

Just as Genesis describes the condition of the earth as formless and empty, this is identical to our position before Christ within us. The words used to describe the condition of the earth is tohu (toe-hu) and bohu (boe-hu). The latter of these words are almost always used in combination.

Tohu or formless means the state of chaos or nothingness. Bohu or darkness depicts the state of matter after God had created it but before He had fashioned it for habitation.

Have you ever heard the statement that darkness is the absence of light? And while this sounds like a very logical saying, the fact is that darkness is matter. Meaning that it is just as present as light is.

This darkness spoken of describes the state of the earth after God judges it. This very definition tells me that there must have been a segment of time from Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. At some point Lucifer was in heaven as an archangel and then he deceived his own heart by thinking he could ascend above God. Isaiah 14 describes the fall of Satan. And this is why that the earth was empty and chaotic.

This same event depicts us before coming to the knowledge of Jesus. Our lives were chaotic because judgement was upon us. Even though we thought we were living life to the fullest...we were really living under the judgement of sin. Look at how Jesus describes it:

John 12:44–48 NLT

44 Jesus shouted to the crowds, “If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. 45 For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. 46 I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark. 47 I will not judge those who hear me but don’t obey me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. 48 But all who reject me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken.

Jesus said that we would no longer remain in the dark. Coming into the light means we become separated from the darkness. This is the true point of beginning. This is step one.

2 Corinthians 5:17–18 NKJV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ...

What is new is a fresh start. A new beginning. Your new life is now authored by God’s heart. Our ways of thinking are new. Our ways of speaking are new. Our meditations are new. Do you remember the joy and peace when you accepted Jesus as your Lord and savior? How you felt within! The joy and peace that radiated. The cleanliness you felt. That was the new you. That was coming into the light. At that very moment your intellect, thought process, and ambition was to only please the Father. That coming into the light separated us from the darkness.

Genesis 1:3–4 NLT

3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.

Notice that God created the light and not the darkness. Why is that? Verse 2 said that the darkness was already present. The bohu (darkness) the state of matter after God had created it but before He had fashioned it for habitation.

The light that separated the darkness was not the sun. The sun did not come into existence until verses 14 and 15. The light that is spoken of is the division of right and wrong. Good and evil. Light and darkness. This standard of one between the other was the first president that God put into motion. And our coming into the light pronounces our separating from darkness.

1 John 1:5–7 NLT

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

When we come to the light we must live as the light. If we practice what is done in darkness then are we living in the light. Jesus said in

Matthew 6:22–24 NLT

22 “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. 23 But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! 24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.

There is no way to perceive light except through our eye. Our eye is the gate for the light. Jesus used the metaphor of our eye to address our focus. When we are focused on one thing it is known to us as tunnel vision. There is no other distraction, nothing that draws our attention away from what we have set our focus upon. In this case it is the focus of our heart. We know this because just a few verses before, Jesus mention that where our treasures are is where our heart is found also.

If we keep our sight on the light then we will be full of light but if our focus drifts from the light then we are drifting back towards the darkness. And if what we perceive to be light is actually darkness then we have become deceived. Not by others, but deceived by our self. We call this self-deception. When you think you are right but in reality you are wrong.

2 Corinthians 4:6 NLT

6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 1:5 NLT

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Light has always overcome darkness. When you turn on the light in a room what happens? The darkness disappears. It ceases to exist.

John 8:12 NLT

12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 9:5 NLT

5 But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."

This is why the world looks so dark right now. And supposedly everyone we come across is a "Christian". Then why are we not shining in this dark world. If we were to turn off all the lights in this building it would be very dark. But if each of us take out our phones and one by one we turn the flashlights on, this room would begin to illuminate. That is why Jesus said in Matthew 5:14–16 "14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." "14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."

There are followers of Christ that are shining their light but there are many "Christians" that are not seeing the light and they are reflecting darkness. They perceive a light that is actually darkness.

Listen to the call of God for man:

1 Peter 2:9 NLT

9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Colossians 1:13 NLT

13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,

Ephesians 5:8 NLT

8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!

Do you notice the theme of the calling? From Darkness to light! How is this so difficult for people to understand? Could it be as simple as the neglect to pick up God's word. To read and meditate upon it. Allowing it to be the nourishment for the Spirit of God within? Could it be the lack of the message preach behind the pulpit? The message of lukewarmness is a message that a lot of people don't welcome. And many Pastors and preachers are intimidated by the people in the seats. Paul urged Timothy to preach the full counsel of Gods word, when it is favorable or not favorable. To bring correction, rebuke, and encouragement with sound doctrine. Because a time is coming when people will no longer want this kind of teaching. They will look for teachers that will tell them what they want to hear and reject the truth.

Listen to the message that Jesus spoke to Paul:
Acts 26:17-18 NLT

17 And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles 18 to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'

Forgiveness is given to those that are set apart by faith unto God. Not those that refuse to turn from darkness. Not for those that straddle the fence. Not those that live like the world 6 days a week. Those that are separated from darkness!

Just as we stated at the beginning of this message that to every beginning has an end and we will find this to be true within scripture.

The world only existed because of God and the world will surely end because of God. And because He alone holds the keys, all things are subject to His word.

Look at what John saw in Revelation 21.
Revelation 21:1-5 NLT

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." 5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

He will make all things new! That means that the world as we know it will no longer be. We will have a new beginning. I beg and plead with you today to come back to the light. Be separated from the darkness and the only way to remain separated from the

darkness is to follow the light. Follow Jesus where ever He is leading you. Will you accept the call to come out from amongst the world and be clothed in righteousness?

Let me pray with you today!