

God's Marvelous Light

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It has been said that beauty is only skin deep but ugly goes all the way to the bone. Well, there is nothing uglier than sin for its effects have permeated every part of life and creation.

In the bible, sin is depicted as way more than a single act. It is a powerful force that emanates from a spiritual realm of wickedness, evil, and darkness under the rule and reign of God's arch enemy – Satan, Lucifer, and the devil – which are just a few names ascribed to him; but perhaps the most disturbing of all are the titles given to him in the scriptures, such as, “the prince of the power of the air” and “the god of this age”.

As the prince of the power of the air, his spirit is seen to be at work in and through those who disobey God, and as the god of this age, he is seen as a dominant controller over our modern society and culture.

Sin separates a life from God. Sin is a darkness that blinds men from seeing, knowing, and relating his or her creator. The wages of sin is death – eternal separation from God.

Sin is evidenced through the works of the flesh which proceed from a darkened heart:

Matthew 15:18–19 ¹⁸ “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. ¹⁹ “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

Galatians 5:19–21 ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

These are the things that make our world and lives ugly.

Into our sinfulness and ugliness, God has sent to us the light of His glory. He has revealed to us His perfect righteousness and holiness.

2 Corinthians 4:6 ⁶ For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

The light of the gospel exposes sin when it allowed to shine into our hearts.

1 Corinthians 1:18 ¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the cross speaks to the entirety of the gospel from the atoning work of Christ through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch; like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

God's grace that brought us to Him is the same amazing grace that keeps us in Him.

Read: 1 John 1:5–2:3 (By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.)

Jesus Christ came to save us from sin. When the Son sets you free then you are truly free. What does it mean to be free?

- We have the gift of the life of the Spirit through the atoning work of Jesus Christ.
- We have been given the righteousness of Christ.
- We have fellowship with God the Father and the Son as we walk in the light.
- We do not practice sin. Sin does not master over the redeemed child of God.
- We are able to put to death the deeds of the flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you say you have fellowship but walk in darkness you deceive yourself. His light reveals the unrighteousness of the sinful nature, and as we see, we confess. He is just in forgiving and cleansing us because of the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit, and the washing of the water by the word, we are partaking in the divine nature of God. We are being refined like gold for our purification. Jesus will present us to Himself as His glorious church not having spot or wrinkle.

We are children of the light.

1 Peter 2:9 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.

Philippians 2:12–16 ¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Ephesians 5:6–10 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 formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.