

Light and Life

April 29, 2018

Ezra 9:8 “But now, for a brief moment, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage.

I. Light to our Eyes

A. Light to the eyes leads to victory.

Psalm 13:3-4 Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

B. Light to the eyes leads to direction.

Psalm 19:8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Proverbs 6:23 For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life,

C. Light to the eyes leads to hope.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

II. Relief in our bondage

Ezra 9:8 “But now, for a brief moment, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage.

A. Life of Bondage

1. You become a servant to what you worship.

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God

- **Idols become distractions away from what is real.**

2. The Danger of Distractions

- Distracted by what is wrong.
- Distracted by what feels right.
- Distracted by what seems important

Nehemiah 6:2-3 So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?”

3. The church cannot afford to be distracted in this moment.

B. Relief from God

Ezra 9:8 “But now, for a brief moment, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage.

1 Samuel 14:29 Jonathan said, “My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

1. Three characteristics of God’s life

- God’s life is righteousness.
- God’s life is peace.
- God’s life is joy.

2. Light and life are found in Jesus.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.