

The Kingdom Of Darkness

Kent Bailey

In the expression of divine revelation God used specific words to contrast truth and error; sin and righteousness. Among the descriptions most often used are the terms light and darkness. When one obeys the saving gospel of Christ one is translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son:

“GIVING THANKS UNTO THE FATHER, WHICH HATH MADE US MEET TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN LIGHT: WHO HATH DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, AND HATH TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON; IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION EVEN THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN...”(**Colossians 1:12-14**).

Throughout the New Testament the figure of darkness symbolizes sin and disobedience unto the will of God. Because of this significant fact the rule and dominion of Satan is thus described as The Kingdom of Darkness.

The Christ-less life is a life of spiritual darkness. Paul, the apostle, in writing to the church of the Lord in Ephesus observed the condition from which they had been converted: “FOR YE WERE SOMETIMES DARKNESS, BUT NOW ARE YE LIGHT IN THE LORD: WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT (**Ephesians 5:8**). To the Christians in Thessalonica we read these words: “YE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT, AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DAY: WE ARE NOT OF THE NIGHT, NOR OF DARKNESS. THEREFORE LET US NOT SLEEP, AS DO OTHERS; BUT LET US WATCH AND BE SOBER. FOR THEY THAT SLEEP, SLEEP IN THE NIGHT; AND THEY THAT ARE DRUNKEN ARE DRUNKEN IN THE NIGHT. 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” (**I Thessalonians 5:5-8**).

Concerning faithful living for Christians John, the apostle wrote: “AGAIN, A NEW COMMANDMENT I WRITE UNTO YOU, WHICH THING IS TRUE IN HIM AND IN YOU: BE CAUSE THE DARKNESS IS PAST, AND THE TRUE LIGHT NOW SHINETH” (**I John 2:8**). Those in sin abide in darkness whereas those living in righteousness abide in the light.

Spiritual darkness is always hostile to that of spiritual light. Concerning Christ John wrote: “IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. AND THE LIGHT SHINETH IN THE DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS COMPREHENDED IT NOT” (**John 1:4-5**). “FOR EVERY ONE THAT DOETH EVIL HATETH THE LIGHT, NEITHER COMETH TO THE LIGHT LEST HIS DEEDS SHOULD BE REPROVED” (**John 3:20**).

Due to the hostility that exists between sin and righteousness as Christians we must recognize the origin of all sin. “FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES” (**Ephesians 6:12**).

The Kingdom Of Darkness

Kent Bailey

Spiritual darkness symbolizes the ignorance of a life separated by sin from Christ. Christ stated, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE" (**John 8:12**).

Spiritual darkness describes the chaos of life without God. When one notes the confusion found in the lives of those in sin such brings to mind the words of inspiration as written by Paul, "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" (**2 Corinthians 4:6**).

The immorality of sin is always described as being that of spiritual darkness. "AND THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION, THAT LIGHT IS COME INTO THE WORLD, AND MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL" (**John 3:19**).

Spiritual darkness is always lacking in true spiritually positive results. The Christian, when faithful to God, will (by means of the word of God) produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives. When the word of God does not control one's life there will be no positive spiritual results (**Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:11**).

The sin of hatefulness is always accompanied by that of spiritual darkness. Such a terrible condition is identified in the scriptures (**I John 9:11; Jude 6; Matthew 22:13**). We are faced with a mighty conflict. May we have the courage to bravely meet the foe and with God's help be victorious in our fight:

Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest,
Thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation,
Thy grace has made us strong;
And now O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
We follow, not with fears,
For gladness breaks like morning,
Where 'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted over us,
We journey in its light;
The crown awaits the conquest;
LEAD ON, O GOD OF MIGHT

May we, the people of God, stand fast in the faith and with the unsheathed sword of the Spirit demonstrate to the ruler of the Kingdom of Darkness that we still make war.