

Who Turned Out the Lights?

There is a world out there that is dark and full of evil. It is getting worse every day. It is affecting nations the world over. We can blame it on non Christians; we can blame it on radical Muslims, ISIS if you please. We can blame it on all the bad people and bad ideas! We can blame it on governments. The world is not dark because of them. The world is dark because it needs light. We can get rid of all the evil forces, but that won't solve the problem. This war between good and evil won't be won with guns and wars! We can hold back the evil forces by enacting legislation and policies at a government level, but that is not the answer because they will just sit back and wait for a better opportunity to manifest themselves.

What the world needs is light. We, the Christians, are the only ones that can effect a change in our world because we are the only ones who have what the world is looking for!

The whole earth is waiting....

Rom 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.* **Rom 21** *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (deliver, protect, preserve, make whole.)

We tend to look at salvation as an escape from hell, but salvation is really the path to freedom.

Salvation (according to the Greek dictionary)-**liberty, freedom, deliverance, wholeness of mind and body**

Jesus gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of the Father. **Galatians 1:4**

Jesus is the only one that can set anyone free from the bondage of this world because He provides the only way to resolve the sin issue that holds everyone captive to the disqualifying performance of their flesh.

Jesus did not die for our sins just so that he could satisfy God's need for sin to be atoned for. He died to remove the sin barrier that exists in our minds that keeps us separated from God, which in turn keeps us from walking in our inheritance.

Every other religious system (including the "perverted form" of Christianity) is founded in one way or another upon the premises of holding man's sin against him and perfecting the flesh. They use the law as leverage and the threat of punishment to keep its members in line. Leading a sinless life without a savior is impossible. The followers of these systems are kept in bondage by being manipulated by the guilt and condemnation that comes with the fear of not pleasing God. There is no path to freedom because it is impossible to satisfy the conditions of the law.

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

If one fails to believe that the cross was a success, he will see himself as a slave.

Colossians 1:12 *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (**qualified**) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:****13*** *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:****14*** *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

Jesus was the light of the world.

John 1:4

In Him was life; and that life in him was the light of men.

Light-to make manifest, illumination, fire, light

Jesus manifested his father's glory to the people of this world.

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Jesus was the light bulb that radiated a visible reflection of the invisible God the world was looking for.

John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, hath declared him.*

Declared-He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He could be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].

Colossians 1:15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*

Jesus was the divine manifestation of God in human form. He delivered us from the power of darkness and connected us to the things of the kingdom.

Colossians 1:12 *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

Light produces an attracting force. People were attracted to Jesus. Crowds followed him. Sinners ate with him. They did not feel threatened in His presence.

Mark 2:15 *And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.*

What was the attraction? The people could visibly see God in him. It wasn't what Jesus said. A lot of people talk about God, but it is only talk. They don't see anything that attracts them. People are looking for someone who knows what he is talking about.

John 10:36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. **38** But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

People could tell that Jesus knew God and they were looking for someone that they could relate to that could relate to God. **John 3:2**

Jesus didn't have a doctrinal agenda that consisted of rules and regulations; deliverance was his agenda because that is God's agenda!

Acts 10:38 *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

He was led by the Spirit, not the law. He aroused their awareness of God.

Matthew 9:35 *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

Matthew 9:36 *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

When Jesus said he was the light of the world, people saw the light. Read the story in John 9 of Jesus healing a man who was born blind.

When Jesus passed by he saw a man who was born blind. The disciples asked him, who sinned; the man or his parents? Jesus said, neither! I didn't come to condemn people, I came to save them.

John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

He made a spittle of mud and healed a blind man. **John 9:6**

The Pharisees, being carnally minded, and viewed everything in light of the law and questioned Jesus' right to bear light! In their estimation, was impossible for a sinner to represent or approach God.

V 15

V16 *Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.*

But, the blind man was not affected by their words because he saw the light.

V25 *He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.*

The Pharisees were obsessed with the law and it made them spiritually blind. They could not see the light.

Pharisee-by definition-litterally-to disperse; to wound, to separate, to scatter, sting; Exclusively religious (they separated themselves from the world and drew a line in the sand) they had an us and them attitude

2Corinthians 3:14 *But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.***15** *But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.*

The law scatters light. Because they themselves were spiritually blind, they had no light to give.

Matthew 23, 17,19,24,25-26 calls them **blind guides** who are focused on outside appearance and not on the treasure that really brings value to the vessel. **2 Corinthians 4:7**

Matthew 23:4 *For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 13* *But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*

The message of the law that short circuits the light is actually a powerless perversion of the truth that is being promoted by the God of this world, and it is a killer. **2 Timothy 3:5**

Matthew 23:15 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Hell-a dark place of torment

Hell is the dark place that Satan invented. Satan torments his captives with lies and perverted truths that he invented.

2Corinthians 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*

Jesus was different! When people saw Him they could see God! He opened their blind eyes to the truth. He has the keys of death and hell.

Revelations 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Hell-This word according to the Greek dictionary means to lack spiritual understanding; the absence of sight or perception

Jesus opened spiritually blinded eyes-

Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

Why is it that sinners were attracted to Jesus but they were not attracted to the Pharisees? They were attracted to his light.

Satan came against the religious leaders and the established church in Jesus' day with a perversion of grace and blinded their eyes to the truth that was designed to set them free, and he is trying to do the same thing today!

That perversion is what blocks the light!

*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. **14** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. **15** Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. **Matthew 5:13-16***

A perverted version of Christianity is unknowingly promoting subtle lies of the most dangerous kind. This is dangerous because it is a powerless perversion of the truth that the church can't see. These lies are holding both the church and

the world captive to the same principles that the Pharisees bound people to.

2Corinthians 11:13 *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. **14** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

The lie is being promoted as the truth by Christians who have been deceived! This sounds like blasphemy! Surely it can't be coming from the church! How could the church be the ones promoting the errors that are affecting the world? Think about it. It is only logical! The enemy is after the light and no one else has it; Who better to deceive than the light bearers!

Acts 13:10 *And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?*