

The Simply Profound Truth About Light

A beginner's guide to light:

John 8:1-30, John 1:1-14, John 3:19-21, Psalm 119:105

The Light brings **CLARITY** to **EVERYTHING** around it.

The Light can both **ATTRACT** and **REPEL**.

People love to walk in **DARKNESS**.

When The Light changed everything:

Ephesians 5:8-16, Colossians 1:9-14

The **CROSS** changes everything!

It changed our past from **GUILT** to **GRACE**.

It changed our identity from **SINNER** to **SAINT**.

It changed our future from **DEATH** to **LIFE**.

The game plan:

Matthew 5:14-16

We are now the **LIGHT** of the **WORLD**.

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The Light brings _____ to _____ around it.

The Light can both _____ and _____.

People love to walk in _____.

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It changed our past from _____ to _____.

It changed our identity from _____ to _____.

It changed our future from _____ to _____.

The game plan:

Matthew 5:14-16

We are now the _____ of the _____.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of May 14, 2023

QUICK REVIEW

Pastor Chris shared some simply profound truths about light this weekend. As you look back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, something that caught your attention, challenged how you will live your life going forward or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time when you found yourself in darkness and needed some light? What did you do? Did you find a light?

2. Pastor Chris reminds us that the cross changes everything – our past, our identity and our future. Then he used three stark contrasts about the changes from guilt to grace, sinner to saint, and death to life. Which of these three resonated the most with you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the message, Pastor Chris touched on the passage Ephesians 5:8-16. Grab a pen and a highlighter. Highlight anything you find encouraging since we are no longer in darkness. Circle the “don’t dos” and underline the “dos” from the passage below.

Ephesians 5:8-16 New International Version (NIV)

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” ¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Paul's instructions to the church in Ephesus are applicable to us today as we walk in the light of the cross. Is there a particular “don’t do” that stuck out to you? Is there a “do” that you want to spend some time focusing on this coming week?

2. Pastor Chris ended with the powerful truth that God's game plan involves us! His childhood realization that the moon was not producing light, but reflecting light from the sun is an incredible picture of what we get to do. We are to be men and women who reflect the Son. What a privilege that we are called, and get to be the light of the world representing Christ. Read verses Philippians 2:12-16, Matthew 5:15-16 and 1 Peter 2:11-12. What new insights or reminders do you see that are helpful as we reflect the Son and walk in our spiritual mandate to be the light of the world?

Philippians 2:12-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” ¹⁶ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Matthew 5:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Is there anything about this calling that excites you? Is there anything about this calling that scares you? What fears or pressures might come with the knowledge that we are to be the light of the world? Where do you find encouragement as you live out this calling?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back over the message notes and study questions, what is the one truth you want to focus on incorporating into your life this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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