

Stepping in the Light

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Introduction: The light of God is a precious gift!

- A. We live in a dark world that is ruled by the prince of darkness. **(Eph 6:12)**
 - 1. It can seem as if darkness is overwhelming and unstoppable.
 - 2. Our God sent His Son Jesus Christ to bring light to a world of darkness. **(Lk 1:79, Jn 8:12)**
- B. Do you understand what it means to find this light?
 - 1. Satan seeks to keep you proud and self-sufficient so that you will not see. **(2 Cor 4:3-4)**
 - 2. People are so gullible to be influenced by the prejudices of others that they close their minds to the light of God. **(Jn 1:1-5)**
 - 3. Many fear the light but they should not. This light will bring radical changes to your life if you will let it.
 - 4. I would like to share with you how I came to find the light of God.

I. God's light must become your only guide

- A. Jesus set the example of how we handle the light from God.
 - 1. Jesus whole life was focused on “doing the will of the Father who sent Me.” **(Jn 5:19-21, 30)**
 - 2. There was not a single thing Jesus did without the fellowship and authority of the Father. **(Jn 8:28-29)**
 - 3. Jesus' light was delivered in the form of words. They were recorded for us to see and respond to. Jesus showed us the response He expects! **(Jn 12:46-50)**
- B. From these verses Jesus teaches us how to view and handle His word.
 - 1. If we do not have positive authority from God's word then we do nothing!
 - 2. God has given us “all things” for us to follow.
 - 3. The respect we have for Jesus' word is the respect we have for Jesus.
 - 4. Are you following the footsteps of Jesus?
- C. Consider the implications of the inspiration of God's word. **(2 Tim 3:16-17)**
 - 1. What does perfect mean? What does “every good work” mean?
 - 2. What should we do when the Bible does not speak on a subject?
 - a. Some say it is allowable as long as the Bible does not condemn it.
 - b. Jesus taught us to do nothing that is not to practice it.
 - 3. We are not allowed to act when the Bible is silent! **(Col 3:17)**
- D. As a young man I started a Bible reading on my own one summer.
 - 1. I had earlier prayed to God to help me find His way.
 - 2. A prayer for light is a prayer that God will answer! **(Ps 89:13-18)**

II. God's Light will be in conflict with the religions of men

- A. Love for my Lord demanded that I surrender things that divide. **(Jn 17:20-23)**
 - 1. I was raised in a religious body that had good sincere people in it.
 - 2. Why does division exist? What can I possibly do as a single individual?
- B. One of my first challenges came as I examined the Lord's Supper. **(Mt 26:26-28)**

1. In the Baptist church I never remember partaking of it.
 2. Driving home from Samford University I heard a radio sermon on the subject. The early church met on the first day of the week!
(Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:1-2)
 3. I tried to imperfectly practice what I had learned.
- C. God's light directed me to find the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:12-14)
1. While attending the University of Alabama I heard a basic presentation on how Jesus directed men to be saved. (Mk 16:15-16)
 2. It was important not to base your conclusion on just one verse. What did Peter preach? (Acts 2:38)
 3. Consider how the apostle Paul found the light. (Acts 9:3-11)
 - a. Paul came to repent and follow whatever Jesus asked him to do.
 - b. He also prayed for 3 days. Was Paul saved?
 - c. Paul needed additional light and Ananias gave it to him.
(Acts 22:12-16)
 - d. Was Paul right to leave Judaism? (Acts 26:18)
 - e. In the "4 spiritual laws" tract part of God's light was left out!
 4. As I examined all the verses on this subject, I found that whenever baptism and salvation (forgiveness of sins) are mentioned together that baptism always is placed before salvation. (1 Pt 3:20-21)
 5. After studying and asking further questions I decided to be baptized into Christ and take a stand to be just a Christian. (Acts 19:1-4)
 6. Was I right in doing that?

III. The fight to stay in God's light never ends

- A. In my stand to only follow the light of God I have found that others who once stood with me have given up that stand.
1. Light comes as an opportunity – it can be lost. (Jn 12:35-36)
 2. Churches as well as individuals can drift away and now fight the light that they once stood in.
- B. Those that walk in the light never fear the light – they welcome it!
(Jn 3:19-21)
1. One of the most difficult experiences came when I tried to have the man baptize me study on a "controversial" subject. He angrily refused!
 2. There are many churches today that will not allow certain subjects to be addressed from the pulpit.
 3. Years later this church invited a speaker from the denomination I left to be a keynote speaker in a series of youth meetings. He was also described by the news media as "liberal" on the subject of homosexuality.
- C. Our light must always come from God's word and not just depending upon what a church calls itself. (Isa 2:5-6)

Conclusion: Are you willing to trust God? (Isa 50:10-11)

- A. God's light will require that you take a stand!
- B. My family struggled with my stand but over time they were willing to listen.