

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.03.31

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Light

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/brad-light



Upcoming Gospel Meetings:

Westlake Church Of Christ

April 5-7 with Sam Bunyard

2291 State Hwy Z, Wentzville, MO 63385

Saint James Church of Christ

April 14-17 with Jonathan Brown

Oak Grove Church of Christ

June 23-28 with Warren King

Come to the Light 8/30/2023 By Sam Bunyard

It doesn't take long in John's gospel to find Jesus butting heads with the religious leaders of His day. Finding merchants and money changers in the Temple, Jesus made a whip to drive them out and overturned their tables of money and wares. This immediately put Jesus at odds with those in authority in the Jewish religion.

A Pharisaical ruler named Nicodemus came to Jesus by cover of night (due to pressure from other Jewish leaders) to find out more about Him. It is interesting that Jesus gave the man who snuck around to meet him in darkness a lesson about coming to the light. Jesus told Nicodemus, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:3). Nicodemus must have thought this to be a strange statement. After all, He was a child of Abraham and a ruler of the kingdom of God! Of course, Jesus was talking to him about a spiritual kingdom greater than physical Israel – and there were conditions beyond ancestry required to enter it!

Many people today want to hang their hat on John 3:16 and call it a day – as long as we believe that Jesus is God's Son, we are okay! And no one should judge, because "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (Jn 3:17). Jesus didn't come "to condemn" because the world was already self-condemned when He got here – that's why we needed saving!

If people continue to read Jesus' speech to Nicodemus, they will find that salvation has further conditions than just belief. "He who does the truth comes to the light..." (Jn 3:21). Just as the Israelites had to come to the bronze serpent for healing thousands of years ago, we must come to the light of Jesus for our salvation today (Jn 3:14)! And if we are going to come to the light, we must do the truth!

The True Light, 04/28/2007 by Bryan Matthew Dockens

Among other illustrious descriptions, our Lord Jesus Christ is called "the true **Light** which gives **light** to every man coming into the world" (John 1:9).

When Jesus Was Born a Star Appeared

"Now after Jesus was born... behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen **His star** in the East and have come to worship Him'" (Matthew 2:1-2).

The Savior's entrance into the world was marked by the appearance of that star, and with His arrival on earth came illumination unto salvation, as well. When Joseph and Mary went to the temple to present the Divine Child to the Lord, they were met by Simeon who blessed Him, saying, "Lord... my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a **light** to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel" (Luke 2:22-32). More than once, Jesus claimed, "I am the **light** of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5). And, He wants to share His light: "He who follows Me shall not walk in **darkness**, but have the **light** of life" (John 8:12).

When Jesus Was Dying the Sun Disappeared

While the Savior was hanging from the cross, "from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was **darkness** over all the land" (Matthew 27:45) because "the sun was **darkened**" (Luke 23:44). The day the sinless Son of God was murdered was the darkest day the world has ever known. The entire ordeal from His betrayal to His crucifixion was **dark** indeed. Addressing the mob that had come to arrest Him, Jesus said, "This is your hour, and the power of **darkness**" (Luke 22:53).

All sin is characterized as darkness. "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is **light** and in Him is no **darkness** at all" (I John 1:5). Christians are a people who have left the **darkness** behind in order to enter the **light** (Ephesians 5:8; I Thessalonians 5:5; I Peter 2:9). Though the light is shining, some allow Satan to blind them from it (II Corinthians 4:3-6).

Darkness eternal is the just recompense for sin. "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of **darkness**, to be reserved for judgment... then the Lord knows how to... reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment" (I Peter 2:4, 9).

When Jesus Returns He Becomes Its Sun

Of the New Jerusalem it is written, "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to **shine** in it, for the glory of God **illuminated** it. The Lamb is its **light**" (Revelation 21:23).

For the faithful, there is a promise of similar glory. "The righteous will **shine** forth as the **sun** in the kingdom of their Father" (Matthew 13:43).

With Jesus there is light. He is "the **Bright** and Morning **Star**" (Revelation 22:16), "the **Dayspring** from on high" (Luke 1:78), and "the **Sun** of Righteousness" (Malachi 4:2).