



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Lighthouse

“For God, Who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Without light, no endeavor is safe because we cannot see the dangers that surround us. I was walking a trail beneath a cliff overlooking Lake Superior recently when I stumbled upon three dead deer. I tried to figure out what had killed them and then it struck me. They had been grazing above on the cliff during the night and in the dark did not know where the ledge was. One plummeted over the side—the next one, oblivious to what had happened, followed after it, and so on. What a terrible thing to happen! They did not know what danger they were in because they had no light.

On the Great Lakes, men built lighthouses to save ships from falling prey to the unforgiving coast. Before these lights were made, sailors gambled daily with their lives because at any moment they might come to an end in utter ruin. With the aid of lighthouses, sailors could see the light piercing the darkness and would know their danger and be able to avoid death for *“all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, ‘Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you’”* (Ephesians 5:13-14). As Believers, we *“were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light”* (Ephesians 5:8), for we have become His Light in the world, too, warning others about the dangers of their sin.

The devil hates the Light because it warns people about their sin nature and shows the traps he has laid in his spiritual night. The

world system, however, likes this darkness because it knows how to navigate it—gaining advantage and power by “helping” people who are in its darkness. Think how car-salesmen, lawyers, and insurance companies keep you in the dark about their “system,” fees, and fine print while offering to “enlighten” you. They can navigate this darkness because it is of their making—they see by their light (or knowledge) while they keep you in the dark about that light. This is satan’s system, which even enters the Church through false teachers, and *“no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness”* (2 Corinthians 11:14-15a). These are like “wreckers” who used false lights, imitating lighthouses, to lure ships to ruin in order to spoil their cargoes. This is the only gain from satan’s light—to enrich his servants from the ruin of those tricked by it. He cannot save his servants by his light and they will perish in his darkness.

Unlike the false lights of the world, Jesus is the True Light *“which, coming into the world, enlightens every man”* (John 1:9b). Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, shines upon all mankind to show us the perilous danger we were in as sinners. Many people do not like what they see about themselves in God’s Light and would prefer to live in darkness rather than see their sinful reflection, even if that means they risk utter ruin in hell. They do not understand that the world’s flattering lights lure them only to death. God’s purpose in enlightening us through Jesus is not to make us feel bad about ourselves but to show us our danger in sin and offer us a path free of that danger in His Light—a road that leads to Eternal life through the Salvation of Jesus Christ, for *“in Him was life, and the life was the Light of men”* (John 1:4). Even so. Amen.

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