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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..” Acts 16:31a* And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9,10* *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13* *“Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

Spiritual Darkness

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." - John 1:5

Intro:

Darkness and light are metaphors put there to explain to us the illumination that the truth that Bible Doctrine gives us versus the absence of truth. Men may seek all kinds of truth, the truth of science, the truth of physics and mathematics, the truth of history, etc., but the one truth that man does not want is the truth that comes from the teaching of the Bible; the truth is the light. As darkness is the absence of light, so is spiritual darkness the absence of biblical truth.

A. The darkness of the world system.

Ephesians 6:12, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the **darkness** of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

The world system, *kosmos*, is a system based on the absence of Bible Doctrine. It encompasses religion, politics and a money system. It is also made up of, and operated and controlled by, those who make a living, or profit off this system. The world and all the unsaved people in it are put as being in darkness, that is, spiritual darkness.

It is ruled over by fallen angels, who joined Satan in his rebellion against God, and they rule the world and the people in the world under the authority of the devil. Their rule is based upon lies, deception, thuggery, and coercion. Central to this rule is to keep people in the dark and they accomplish this by hiding from them the truth of God's Word.

Satan took over the rule of this world when Adam sinned against God and ever since then he has plunged it into darkness, so that men might not know the truth. Satan was a liar since the beginning and you can be sure that he did not reveal the whole truth about him and God when he swayed 1/3 of the angels to join him in the rebellion against God.

B. Darkness covers men's sins.

John 3:19, *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved **darkness** rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

Darkness has always been the great cover for men's evil acts because you don't know what's happening and you don't know who is doing it! So it gives evil men anonymity and obscurity so they won't be found out. And because of that men love darkness instead of the light! Why? Because if there was light it would reveal their evil doings!

And it's not that they prefer darkness over light, it's that they **love** the darkness! They love it because they are doing what they love to do, which is evil. So evil doing and darkness go hand in hand. And if they love the darkness, then they will hate the light. And if they hate light, they will hate those who are of the light because the light they bring reveals their evil doings! This is why when Christ came into the world they hated him.

C. Jesus Christ was the light of the world.

John 1:5, "And the **light** shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:9, "That was the **true Light**, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

In John 1:5 it says that the **darkness**, that is, the world system made up of mankind under the rule of Satan, did not comprehend it. The word **comprehend** is the aojist active indicative of *katalambano*, which mean to seize, to attain to, to make one's own. It's telling us when the light came into the world of darkness the children of darkness, and he's talking about Israel here, had the opportunity to take hold of it and make it their own by faith in Christ - but they didn't! And why? Because once again they loved darkness more than light!

Even those who are wrapped up in the New Age group, who are seeking enlightenment by various means, will never be truly enlightened because true enlightenment comes only by knowing Jesus Christ through his Word! Christ is the light of God, the light of the World and he is the light of the soul, if he is in our souls.

Satan has always had those who seek to "enlighten" mankind, but they are still in the darkness because there is no true enlightenment apart from Jesus Christ. In the OT there were actually two Enochs. There was the Enoch who came through the godly line of Seth, but there was an Enoch who came from the murderer, Cain.

The godly line, who came from Seth, produced a man named Enoch. Genesis 5:22, "And **Enoch** walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:" But the satanic line through Cain also produced a man named Enoch. Genesis 4:17, "And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare **Enoch**: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch."

In the Hebrew the name is really *chănôk* and its meaning was initiated, which is to say that he was initiated into the unknown things, that is to say, both Enochs were enlightened. One was enlightened in the matters pertaining to God and the other one into the things that pertained to Satan! And because they both had been initiated they now were able to initiate others.

This tradition has carried on to this very day where you have people trying to be enlightened through a variety of techniques, including religion, versus those who are being enlightened by Jesus Christ through his Word. The Roman Catholic Pope is the grand initiator of the Babylonian religion today, while the Bible teaches that only Jesus Christ is the true Initiator through Bible Doctrine.

Today it is Jesus Christ who is the perfecter of the faith of all Christians. He lived by it himself; he became perfected in it; and he perfects it in his people. Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and **finisher** (perfector) of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 2:10, "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation **perfect** through sufferings."

D. Saved out of the darkness.

Colossians 1:13, "*Who hath delivered us from the power of **darkness**, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*" - 'ος ερρυσατο 'ημας εκ της εξουσιας του σκοτους και μετεστησεν εις την βασιλειαν του 'ιου της αγαπης αυτου.

The word for **delivered** is the aorist active indicative of *rhuomai* and it meant to be rescued from a bad or dangerous situation. The word **from** is actually *ek*, which shows that the believer was already in this system of darkness and the Lord rescued him out of it! He took us out of the dominion and power of Satan and gave us to Jesus Christ.

God called us and took us out of the spiritual darkness of this world, with devils filled, into the marvelous light of his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:9, "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*"

E. We're to walk in the light.

Ephesians 5:8, "*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*" 1 Thessalonians 5:5, "*Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*"

Walking in the light refers to the idea of walking in the truth, which we get from Bible Doctrine; it also speaks of the idea of living our lives by the filling of the Holy Spirit and not by the power of the flesh nature. It is Bible Doctrine that illuminates our path. Psalms 119:105, "*NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*"

But if we reject his Word how do we expect to have the light to shine on our path in our journey through this life? We have to ask, then, why is it that people don't want the light of God's Word? If they don't want the light is it because they are still in the darkness? John 3:20, "*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*" People who attend churches, but don't want the teaching of God's Word should ask themselves this question.

We're not to be entangled in any way with unbelievers, who are a part of this present darkness. 2 Corinthians 6:14, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with **darkness**?"*

Walking in darkness is walking in the ways of this world and of the flesh nature. It certainly includes the idea of being involved in the demonic things of Satan, but also the idea of pursuing after the things that the unsaved pursue after. 1 John 1:6, "*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in **darkness**, we lie, and do not the truth:*"

As children of the light we are to walk in the light. For our inheritance is a kingdom of light, while for the children of the darkness what is reserved for them is to be thrown into outer darkness. Matthew 8:12, "*But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*" They wanted darkness, so they will get eternal darkness.

Matthew 25:41, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, **Depart** from me, ye **cursed**, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" - τότε ερει και τοις εξ' ευωνυμων πορευεσθε απ' εμου 'οι καταραμενοι εις το πυρ το αιωνιον το 'ητοιμασμενον τω διαβολω και τοις αγγελοις αυτου. Το **depart** is the present middle imperative of *poreuomai*; and **cursed** is the perfect passive participle of *kataraoimai*.

Poreuomai was the word used to denote the journey that one is on in life. It was used of businessmen, who journeyed from one town to another for the purpose of conducting business. It was also used of people on earth to denote the journey they are taking in their earthly life. Everyone is on one path or another, some for success and money, others for fame and fortune, others to gratify their lusts. But there is also a small group of people who are walking with God. These on the left hand of Christ were on a journey that would end up in the Lake of Fire. So the word **depart** here is actually telling them to continue on in their journey, which will end up in the Lake of Fire.

Matthew 7:22, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" - πολλοι ερουσιν μοι εν εκεινη τη 'ημερα κυριε κυριε ου τω σω ονοματι προεφητευσαμεν και τω σω ονοματι δαιμονια εξεβαλομεν και τω σω ονοματι δυναμεις πολλας εποιησαμεν.

This is a chilling and sobering thought. Matthew is not questioning the validity of their claims to have prophesied in the name of Christ, or to have cast out devils, or doing many wonderful works of power, the problem is that they had never believed on Christ and Christ never knew them. He knew every one of his sheep, but he didn't know these people and told them so. John 10:14, "*I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*" People who attend churches that emphasize mighty works of power, or tongues, or healing, or prophecy, or casting out demons should ponder this passage for they are still in spiritual darkness.

Matthew 7:23, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart** from me, ye that work iniquity." - και τοτε 'ομολογησω αυτοις 'οτι ουδεποτε εγνων 'υμας αποχωρειτε απ' εμου 'οι εργαζομενοι την ανομιαν. **Depart** is the present active imperative of *apochoreo*. Even though, in their own eyes they had done many "good works", Christ calls them workers of iniquity.

Apochoreo meant to leave someone in the sense of totally separating yourself from them and then go. Used with the preposition *apo* it tells us that they are to depart from their personal presence with him. If **ek** was used, which it wasn't, then it would tell us that there was some kind of union, or relationship with him, then to go away from him.

But with **apo** used it tells us that there was only a point of contact with the other person and they were to separate themselves from that. Which tells us that they were not believers in Christ, nor had they ever been, but people who come up to him at the judgment seeking to gain eternal life, even using a litany of good things that they had done in this life, but Christ tells them that he never knew them. In this passage he tells them to separate themselves from him and go away. And by using the imperative mood he's commanding them to get away from him.

Pastor Mike