

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I John 1:5-7 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. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Quote: “I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light.” John Keith Falconer

Truth and error, holiness and sin are often symbolized in Scripture by the words light and darkness. “**God is light** and in Him is *no darkness at all.*” He is absolute truth and absolute holiness. Jesus said of Himself, “I and my Father are one.”¹ “**I am the light** of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”² Faith in Who Christ is and what He accomplished is the prerequisite for anyone to “not abide in darkness.”³ As “sons of light and sons of the day,”⁴ true Christians take seriously Paul’s admonition to “cast off the works of darkness, to put on the armor of light, to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.”⁵ They “were once darkness, but now ... are light in the Lord” and must “walk as children of light.”⁶ They view the growing hostility in our day towards all things Christian in the context of Christ’s teaching. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely *for My sake.* Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.... *You are the light of the world.* A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”⁷

Paul told the believers in Colossae of his prayer that they “*may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing*

Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of *the saints in the light.* He has *delivered us from the power of darkness* and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”⁸

This theme of light and darkness was also in Peter’s first epistle. He reminded believers of who they were and what their responsibility was. He wrote, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who *called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;* who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, *abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,* having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, *by your good works which they observe,* glorify God in the day of visitation.”⁹

Walking in the light is a metaphor for living righteously by following the example of our Savior. The Christian life is far more than saying that we have fellowship with God; it involves bringing His Word to bear on our thoughts, words and deeds at all times.¹⁰ No one does this perfectly, therefore each of us must confess our failures with the grateful confidence that our God will forgive us and restore the joy and communion that sin quenches.¹¹ Fellowship with Him is both the foundation and the fruit of godliness, as well as the common ground of fellowship with other Christians. Are you seeking to walk in the light that you might edify the saints and evangelize the lost by reflecting and sharing “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ?”¹²

Joy Ground in Fellowship!

1 John 10:30 2 John 8:12 3 John 12:46 4 I Thessalonians 5:5 5 Romans 13:10-14 6 Ephesians 5:1-13 7 Matthew 5:11-16 8 Colossians 1:10-14 9 I Peter 2:9-12 10 Proverbs 3:5-7; I Corinthians 10:31-33 11 Psalm 51 and 32 12 II Corinthians 4:3-6