

Ephesians Series

Lesson #218

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Dean Bible Ministries

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We Are Light in the Lord

Ephesians 5:8–9



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

EPHESIANS

WEALTH

1:3–3:21

Prayer of thanksgiving to God for His provision of this new position in Christ. 3:14–21

WALK

4:1–6:9

Walk carefully in biblical wisdom.
5:15–6:9

WARFARE

6:10–20

Put on the whole armor of God that you may stand. 6:10–20

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,”

Eph. 5:2, “And walk by means of love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Rom. 6:4, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Rom. 8:4, “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Rom. 13:13, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.”

1 Cor. 3:3, “because you are still fleshly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and living like unbelievers? [HCSB] [“walking according to the way of mankind” (RD literal translation)]

2 Cor. 4:2, “But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

2 Cor. 5:7, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Eph. 5:8, “For y’all were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

Eph. 5:10, “by evaluating to determine what is acceptable/pleasing to the Lord.” [RD]

Three things we need to understand this passage:

- 1. What the Bible Teaches about Light**
- 2. What the Bible Teaches About our Position in the Light,
and**
- 3. Our Walk in the Light**

What the Bible Teaches About

Light, Life, Darkness



1. Light is used as a metaphor to describe the essence, the character of God, His essential being. “God is light.”

1 John 1:5, “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.”

1 Tim. 6:16, “who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”

6. Specifically, light then describes more specifically the facets or components of God's Integrity: the combination of His righteousness, justice, and truth.

Psa. 89:14, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; Loving kindness and truth go before Thee."

Psa. 89:15, "How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Thy countenance"

8. In conclusion to the first seven points, light represents the totality of the divine essence with special emphasis on His righteousness, justice, truth, and the illumination and guidance which God's revelation in the Bible provides for life.

9. The LIGHT of God is related to life itself.

Psa. 36:9, “For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.”

In your light (in the light of Your revelation in Your Word)

We see light (we are able to correctly understand all of the issues, challenges, purpose, and meaning of life).

10. Jesus is said to be both Life and the Light of mankind.

John 1:4, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

12. Jesus is the LIGHT of the world.

John 1:9, “That [i.e., the Word] was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”

John 8:12, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’ ”

John 9:5, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

13. Satan is the master counterfeiter: he counterfeits truth, counterfeits life, counterfeits Jesus, counterfeits revelation.

2 Cor. 11:14, “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

2 Cor. 11:15, “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

14. Summary to this point.

- **God is light.**
- **Jesus is the light of the world.**
- **Jesus' light brings life into the world, light and life are connected and dispel the darkness.**
- **But the darkness rejects the light.**
- **But the one who comes to the light, become sons of light and are to not abide in darkness.**
- **Satan is the master counterfeiter of light.**

15. Since God is light (point 1, 1 John 1:5), we are to live our lives in the light to have fellowship with one another.

1 John 1:5, “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.”

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

1 John 1:7, “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.”

This next section deals with our new identity in reference to God's Light.

16. Light is used as a metaphor for the kingdom of God and the plan of God in contrast to darkness, which is used as a metaphor for the kingdom of Satan, carnality, sin, and evil.

Acts 26:18, “ ‘to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’ ”

Col. 1:13, “For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,”

Three things we need to understand this passage:

- 1. What the Bible Teaches about Light**
- 2. What the Bible Teaches About our Position in the Light,
and**
- 3. Our Walk in the Light**

17. Our new legal position, adopted into the royal family of God, is LIGHT.

Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

1 Thess. 5:5, “You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”

**Eternal
Realities**

**Temporal
Realities**

“POSITIONAL TRUTH”
ACTS 16:31



IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

**“now you are
light in the
Lord”**

**18. But in our experience, we walk or think, talk, live either
in the light or in darkness.**

Eternal Realities

Temporal Realities

“POSITIONAL TRUTH”

ACTS 16:31



IN CHRIST

Baptism by the Holy Spirit

“now you are light in the Lord”

FILLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Walking by the Holy Spirit”
“Walk as children of light”

1 John 1:5, “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.

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:7, “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.”

Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness [our position as unbelievers], but now you are light in the Lord [our new identity in Christ].

Walk as children of light!”

[But this implies we can walk like children of darkness]

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

19. We are not to partner (have no fellowship) with the works of darkness, but expose them.

Eph. 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Eph. 5:12, “For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Eph. 5:13, “But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.”

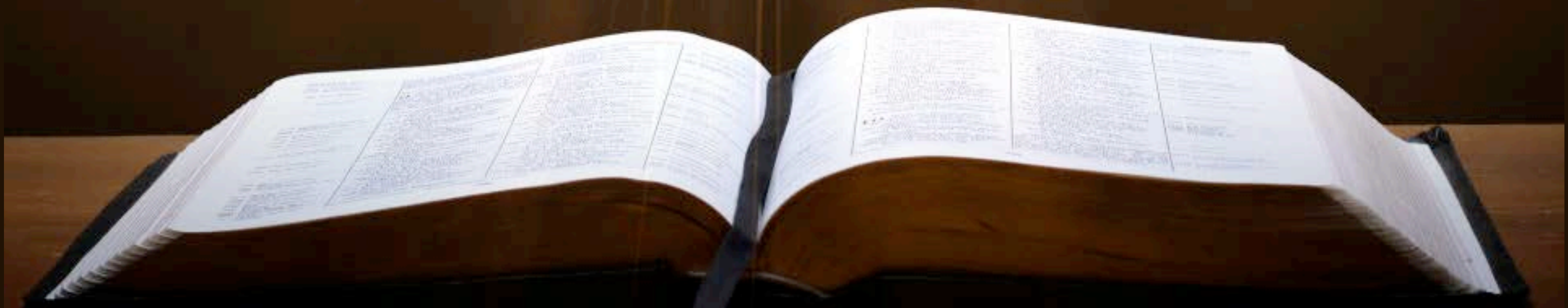
Matt. 5:14, “You are the light of the world. [position, identity] A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matt. 5:15, “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Matt. 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men [experience, temporal realities], that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Our Walk in the Light



Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit* is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJV]

There is a textual variant here. Some manuscripts (mss.) have “light,” which fits with what is said in verse 8. It is possible that a copiest could have seen Light in the original and changed it to Spirit to be consistent with Gal. 5:22–23. Many translators choose this option—light is the original!

Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”