

GETTING USED TO THE DARK

Greeting precious people, this week we are going to look at an occurrence that is happening all around us today in our culture which is "Getting used to the dark".

To illustrate this troubling event let me use an illustration from the natural realm. No doubt you have come into a darkened room after being outside on a sunny day. As you enter that room it is very difficult to see and make objects out clearly. The longer you stay in that room your eyes begin to adjust to the dark and in time you are able to see a little more clearly until eventually you become use to it enough to function adequately. Objects are not as clear as they were when you were outside with the sun shining but enough to get along.

The Word of God the Bible makes it clear that God's people are to walk in the light as He is in the light. We are to come out of the darkness, not longing for the dark rather exposing the darkness by the light that is in our life which is Jesus Christ and His Truth.

The truth about man in general is that he loves the darkness and prefers to stay in the dark. Jesus reveals this to us as He spoke to a man by the name of Nicodemus. John 3:19-21 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

The unfortunate thing is that those who call themselves followers of Christ are embracing the darkness; inviting the darkness into their homes; even pay to have it come into their lives. This is being accomplished by a number of methods such as various forms of media (music; printed page; T.V.; movies; et al) as well as keeping company with those who love the darkness and want nothing to do with the things of God.

Now the reason people do this is varied as well. Some do it because they want to be accepted and liked by others, some do it because they have acquired a liking for what the world calls "entertainment" and value this over obedience, while some do it because they are pressured into it by friends and family. Whatever the reason the effect is still the same, it causes us to become used to the dark, feeling more comfortable in the dark than in the light.

Many who once attended church regularly now attend seldom. They blame it on the pastor or the people attending the church as being unloving and this may true in a few cases but there are other churches that can be attended. The real reason for not attending is that they have become accustomed to the dark and prefer the darkness over the light. The light of the Word of God exposes the darkness that is in their heart and makes them uncomfortable. God demands that those who follow Him must change, this is called repentance and people do not like to change.

Yet Jesus said without repentance no man shall see God. This repentance is not just a one shot deal, it is life long. As we grow in the Lord, He reveals areas of our life that are not pleasing to Him (such things as anger; lying; cheating; being self-centered; foul talking and thinking; lust; and a list of many other sins) and He demands that we turn away from them.

Read what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

Dear ones, it is time to come out of the dark and live in the Light!

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