**Walking in the Light**

Since the fall of man, Satan has used darkness to cloud the minds of men and keep them away from God’s fellowship of light. Keeping men in darkness is one of Satan’s most powerful tools. Using ignorance and the lack of knowledge to his advantage, he keeps a lost world from seeking grace from and fellowship with God. The Old Testament prophet wrote: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children” (**Hosea 4:6**). Using the cover of darkness; Satan places dangerous traps and pitfalls in the pathway of men, who being without God’s lamp of knowledge, stumbles along in their sinful state.

During a time when he was surrounded by darkness, the psalmist wrote: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (**Psa. 119:105**). He knew God’s word was the illumination he needed to travel through this life in fellowship with God. God’s word provides the wisdom needed to live in a way that brings glory to God and keeps us from Satan’s snares. Sadly those who never come to know Jesus and refuse to accept his redeeming blood will continue to stumble through this world, unaware they’ve been blinded by the wiles of the devil. Paul wrote, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (**2 Cor. 4:3-4**).

Jeremiah said, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (**Jer. 10:23**). Since this is true of all mankind, the only hope man has of escaping darkness and entering into the light is God’s divine guidance. The light of God’s truth is the only way anyone can navigate through Satan’s maze of ignorance and wickedness.

God sent His Son into the world that He might be a light unto salvation for all who are willing to give their lives to Him, becoming adopted sons and adopted daughters of God the Father. 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 8:12**). Just as the full moon shines bright in the night sky by reflecting the light of the sun, Christians reflect the light of Christ to a world engulfed in the darkness of sin. Spiritually we become “the light of the world”, a city set upon the hill (**Matt. 5:14**). We become children of the light; no longer walking in darkness, but now having the joy of fellowship with God through Christ.

John writes: that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (**1 John 1:3-7**).

John portrays darkness in terms of sin, ignorance, wickedness and disobedience. At the same time, he represents light as truth, understanding, enlightenment, purity and holiness. Knowing God gives us the best of lights. Emerging from darkness, we understand why He will hold all accountable who refuse to walk in the light and accept His offer of grace and fellowship through His Son.

Walking in the light and being in the presence of God is a divine blessing and privilege bestowed upon believers. Having been given a glimpse of the glory to come, we renew our commitment daily to having a right relationship with Him. We devote ourselves to keeping His precepts, while submitting to His will for our lives. We are inspired to constantly strengthen our relationship with God through fellowship with Christ and fellowship with the body of believers. Walking in the light, we grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, through divine fellowship with Christ; gradually maturing and being perfected in His likeness.

-Rod Ellison Randolph church of Christ.