

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

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CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE -

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Ephesians 5, verses 8-17

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

According to these words dictated by The HOLY SPIRIT and penned down by the Apostle Paul, it is utterly impossible for any person to be saved and not know it. Sinners are darkness . . . they are blacked out, they are in the dark. When we are saved we are transformed out of darkness into light. To be converted from sin to salvation is just like walking out of a dark room into a room where a thousand-watt bulb is blazing light.

It is impossible to shut your eyes and open them and not know the difference, if you are in the sunlight of the noonday. You can close your eyes, and it becomes dark; you open your eyes and it is light. Sinners are in darkness . . . Christians are in light. When the Spirit comes in, we become the children of light, we walk in the light. The SPIRIT proves the things that are acceptable unto GOD.

Verse 11 is not a suggestion - it is a positive and direct command: **"HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS, BUT RATHER REPROVE THEM."** We are not to fellowship with the enemies of JESUS CHRIST. Born again Christians are not to fellowship with the lust of the flesh and the ungodliness of the world. Friendship with the world is spiritual adultery against GOD. We are not to fellowship with liberals, modernists and haters of GOD, deniers of the faith.

It is not enough to stay away from them - but we are to **"REPROVE THEM."** As a minister of the Gospel, it is not enough for me to abstain from the appearance of evil - I must speak out against it.

- It is not enough that I stay out of bars, nightclubs and dancehalls,
- it is not enough that I refuse to embrace liberalism and modernism and stay away from them;

but as a minister of the Gospel I must reprove them, I must speak out against them and warn people. I would not be at all surprised if through these lines I am not speaking to someone who is truly born again and yet you are supporting a liberal or modernist . . . a man who uses some of the modern translations of the Bible which soft-pedal the virgin birth, deny the Blood, declare the Fatherhood of GOD and the brotherhood of man. You should not support any person unless he declares the truth and the doctrine of CHRIST . . . and if you do support such a person you are guilty of his evil deeds.

Read II John and you will see clearly that you are not to invite a liberal, modernist, false religionist or member of a cult into your home. If you do invite them into your house and bid them Godspeed you are guilty of aiding and comforting the enemies of JESUS CHRIST. **"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness"** is a command . . . it is not a suggestion! It is shameful to even talk about the things that are **"done of them in secret"** - the sensual sins of the flesh.

All things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light.

In other words, if we are born again, The HOLY GHOST will show us the things that are right and the things that are wrong. He will lead us into the paths of righteousness, He will lead us around the cesspools and pitfalls of the lust of sin and the world. If we walk in the light we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh and of the mind. We must be led by the Spirit or we cannot overcome the world. Paul cries out in verse 14, **"Awake, thou that sleepest!"** We need to be alert, we need to be sober and vigilant. Our adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion is walking about, seeking whom he may devour, and he is no respecter of persons - never forget that! Read and study I Peter 5:8-10.

We are to see to it that we walk circumspectly. We are not to walk as fools. We are wise because we have the Spirit and the wisdom of GOD . . . CHRIST is made unto us wisdom (I Corinthians 1:29-30). We are not to waste time . . . it is a sin to waste time. The days are evil, we are members of the Body of CHRIST, and we are commanded to preach the Gospel to every creature . . . to carry the good news of the Gospel to those who are lost. To waste time is to sin. We are to buy up the opportunities that present themselves and tell out the Good News daily to those who need to be saved.

From verse 17 we know that the unwise do not seek GOD's will - but we who have wisdom and understanding are to seek His will and follow in His steps. In John 17 He declared that He came here to follow the bidding of the Father and to do the Father's will. He said, **"Not my will, but thine be done."** Just before He gave up His life on the Cross He said, **"It is finished!"** We should at all times seek GOD's will in everything.

Believer, never do anything or go anywhere if you are not sure in your mind that it is right. Anything that is doubtful is sinful - because the HOLY SPIRIT would not put a question mark in your mind if it were right. **"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin"** - and certainly faith knows no doubt. If there is a question mark around the places you go, the things you do, the songs you

sing, the company you keep, the language you use, you may rest assured it is not GOD's will for you to do those things. Submit your will to GOD, and let Him have His way through the leadership of the HOLY SPIRIT in your life.

~ end of chapter 21 ~

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