

“Walk In The Light”
Ephesians 5:8-14
2/2/25
Message 7
Series: The Christian Walk

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Walk In The Light”

- **Illustration**

- The setting for the movie is
 - D-Day the Normandy Invasion. June 6, 1944.
- Captain John H. Miller
 - Survives the initial landing
- In Washington, D.C, at the U.S. War Department
 - General George Marshall is informed that three of the four brothers of the Ryan family were killed in action and that their mother is to receive all three telegrams in the same day.
- He learns that the fourth son
 - Private First Class James Francis Ryan, is a paratrooper and is missing in action somewhere in Normandy.
 - Marshall gives orders that Ryan be found and sent home immediately.
- Three days after D-Day
 - Miller receives orders to find Ryan and bring him back from the front.
 - He assembles seven men from his company

- Eventually, they locate a Private James Ryan
 - Ryan is told of his brothers' deaths, the mission to bring him home, and that two men had been lost in the quest to find him.
 - He is distressed at the loss of his brothers
 - But does not feel it is fair to go home, asking Miller to tell his mother that he intends to stay "with the only brothers [he has] left"
- All the men that were sent out to find Ryan get killed
 - And in the final scene Ryan is with Miller as he dies and says his last words, "James ... earn this. Earn it."
 - **Show Clip**
 - Fast forward to present day, an elderly Ryan and his family visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. Ryan stands at Miller's grave and asks his wife to confirm that he has led a good life, that he is a "good man" and thus worthy of the sacrifice of Miller and the others. His wife replies, "You are." At this point, Ryan stands at attention and delivers a salute towards Miller's grave.
 - Has my life been worthy of the men that gave their lives for mine?
 - Has it been?!!!

• **This Purpose For Series – WALK WORTHY**

- **The REALITY –**
 - We CAN NEVER EARN our Salvation
 - Salvation is a GIFT from God
- **HOWEVER –**

- Were to WALK WORTHY of it

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV)

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

- This is what this series has been ALL ABOUT
 - That we would Walk Worthy
 - That we would GROW as His Disciples
 - I know this series has exposed some hard things
 - Maybe some areas in our lives we know need to be better
 - God's Standard are HIGH
 - How is it even possible to attain
 - The Reality is YES it is hard – It perfect
 - Even though we FAIL to keep His standards
 - We still preach the standards
 - Illustration
 - God does not Grade on a Curve!
 - He is HOLY – RIGHTEOUS
 - We Preach Christ –
 - If your IN CHRIST –

- He has taken the test for you, and you are getting an A
- We NEED to Let His Light Shine

• **Review – So far**

- **1st – 2 Messages On - UNITY**
- **2nd – 2 Messages On - Our Walk In The Body**
- **3rd - Walk In The New Man / Woman**
 - Refuse To Live Like Unbelievers vs. 17-19
 - Respond To The New Life In Christ vs. 20-24
 - Realize The Necessity Of Honesty vs. 25
 - Recognize The Danger Of Anger vs. 26-27
 - Remember The Value & Purpose Of Money & Work vs. 28
 - Relate To Others In A Godly Way vs. 29-32
- **4th Last Week - Walk In Love**
 - The Call To Be Like Jesus v. 1
 - The Challenge To Love Like Jesus v. 2
 - The Conduct We Are To Forsake v. 3
 - The Comments That Should Never Leave Our Lips v. 4
 - The Concern Paul Had vv. 5-7

• **Now This Morning we will look at 4 Powerful Truths in - Walking In The Light**

- Our Position Has Radically Changed v. 8a
- Our Practice Should Reflect That Change v. 8b
- The Presence Of The Holy Spirit Makes The Difference vv. 9-10
- Our Purpose Is To Shine In The World vv. 11-14

Our Position Has Radically Changed v. 8a

• First: For you were once darkness v. 8a

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

- **1st Paul doesn't ONLY say that we were once IN darkness.**
 - NO – Paul says we WERE Once darkness itself!
 - He doesn't say that we all once “walked” in darkness,
 - Which of course we did
 - BUT that we actually were darkness.
 - In other words
 - We became a Personification of the Darkness that we lived in.
 - Our understanding was darkened
 - Our personalities were darkened
 - Our hearts were darkened
 - Our deeds were darkened
 - We were running with satan!

Ephesians 2:1–2 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

- We had no idea –
 - Just like every other Dead Fish floating down stream
 - Our lives were characterized by darkness.
- **2nd Application**
 - **The World –**
 - (Non-Believers) are DARKNESS
 - **Religious People –**
 - A person can be religious
 - Have ALL kinds of Biblical Knowledge
 - Be Kind & Nice
 - Be Full of good works
 - YET still be DARKNESS
 - **Now make no mistake**
 - There are good people I know a lot of them
 - BUT if they are not in Christ (Light) they Are Darkness
 - **This will help us**
 - To understand when we see all the crazy stuff they do
 - They don't have the Light of God

- So they aren't anchored like we are.
- Not to excuse their action only to help us understand and have compassion

• **Second: Darkness Defined**

- **1st How the dictionary defines this word "Darkness"**
 - It means - The ABSENCE Of LIGHT
 - Rather than understood by what it is and what it possesses.
 - **It's defined by what it's not or what it lacks**
 - We like to Attach all kinds of Characteristics to Darkness.
 - Discovery Kingdom... Fright Night
 - Friday Freaky organ music or thick fog, and willow trees, and graveyard... that's where we'll find "the darkness!"
 - Or we think of Darkness as what's
 - Violent, lustful, sensual, greedy, profane
 - But that's what the dark attracts...
 - These are all by-products of darkness.
 - These are evils that latch on to a person while they're in the dark
 - But Darkness itself is – The Absence of Light
 - Spiritual darkness is simply the absence of God's light
 - The Absence of JESUS

- **Third: God is LIGHT**

- **1st God Is LIGHT**

1 Timothy 6:15–16 (NKJV)

15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **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.

- **Paul tells us that God dwells in**

- “Unapproachable Light”
- “Whom no man has seen or can see”

- **Unapproachable Light**

- God is not only light - He's the Brightest Light
 - Brighter than the sun.
 - Illustration
 - Every try and Look at our sun for more than a few seconds and it'll blind you.
 - So it is with God.
 - His brilliance is too intense for human eyes.
 - The brightness of His light and glory is “Unapproachable.”

- **Whom no man has seen or can see**

John 1:18 (NKJV)

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

- No one has seen God at any time.”
 - If human eyes, unshaded, saw God we would be fried.
 - Illustration
 - Moses let me see your glory / forever changed
 - **2nd Jesus Light of the world**
 - **Jesus = “God in See-Able Form”**

John 8:12 (NKJV)

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.*”

▪ **Context In John 8**

- It was the day after final night of the “Feast of Tabernacles”
 - Which is also know as - Sukkot
 - Slept In tent to Celebrate God’s Faithfulness to Israel in the Wilderness
 - Led thru the wilderness –
 - With a Cloud by day Pillar of fire by night!!!
- The Feast ends
 - With a spectacular ceremony called the
 - “Illumination of the Temple”
 - This event took place in the Temple Treasury

- In front of four huge Candelabra which were topped with huge torches.
- In three of the Candelabra there were bowls that were filled oil with large wicks in them.
- During the course of the ceremony these candelabra would be lit.
- Finally, the huge torches on top would be lit
- All the while the musicians would be playing and the priests would be dancing.
- It was a very festive night.
- Not only would the whole Temple be blazing with light,
- But the light from the Temple would illuminate the whole city of Jerusalem.
- It was an incredible sight
- It was after this scene, in this very place, the Temple Treasury,
 - That Jesus showed up the next morning to teach.
 - He was standing before the Candelabra
 - A huge crowd
 - As Jesus was teaching,
 - The Scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman that was caught in the very act of Adultery..... trap!!!
 - You all remember this story, Jesus after writing in the dirt for a while said, “let him

among you who is without sin, cast the first stone.”

- And it tells us that beginning with the oldest and going to the youngest, they dropped their stones and left.
- Neither do I condemn you – go and sin no more!!!
- After that Jesus stepped forward to the Crowd
 - *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*
- What Jesus was telling them with these words
 - The One who was that Cloud in the wilderness & Pillar of Fire
 - The One who was the Glory of the Lord in the wilderness was standing before them.
 - And if they followed Him
 - Just as their ancestors had followed the Pillar of fire in the wilderness that they would not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
- He is God & the way to walk in the light was to follow Him!!!
- John would later say

John 12:45–46 (NKJV)

45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

- He's all that God is - in all His brilliance - but through the lens of grace and mercy.
- To walk in the LIGHT = Walk In Jesus

Our Practice Should Reflect That Change v. 8b

• First: But NOW you are LIGHT IN THE LORD v. 8b

○ 1st But NOW v. 8b

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*

▪ Remember –

- Before we came to Christ we weren't just "IN Darkness"
 - We "Were Darkness."

▪ BUT NOW - IN CHRIST - The Reverse is true

- In Christ we're not just "IN the light," We "Are Light"
 - As Christians we don't just change environments –
 - Go from "in the dark" to "in the light."
- Salvation is more than moving to a lighted room...
 - Something happens deep in me.
 - God turns on a switch in my heart
 - Somehow, we are transformed from "Darkness to Light."

○ 2nd Light In The Lord

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

8 For you were once darkness, but now **you are light in the Lord.** Walk as children of light

▪ **We DON'T have our OWN light**

- HIS LIGHT SHINES – IN US
- Our light is not of our own
- We simply reflect God

▪ **Illustration**

• **1st Then MOON**

- We are to reflect His light - as the moon does the sun!
- When the earth is in our way we reflect less!!!

• **2nd A glow-in-the-dark frisbee**

- Put the disc in a car's headlamp, let it soak up the light - then watch it glow on its own.
 - And likewise, God makes us fluorescent!
- We don't just reflect the light like a mirror -
 - We actually hold the light within, then radiate it to others.
 - We fellowship with Jesus, then shine the light we absorb.

○ **2nd Application – Walk As Children Of Light**

Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
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.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- The World Wants us to Hide – God wants us to shine
 - Let's shine for Jesus!!!

The Presence Of The Holy Spirit Makes The Difference vv. 9-10

• First: For The Fruit Of The Spirit v. 9

Ephesians 5:9 (NKJV)

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

- **1st Fruit Of The Spirit –**
 - We are familiar with the “Fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5
 - BUT Here
 - The emphasis is more on LIGHT
 - Some of the modern translations even have the word “light” here.
 - These Qualities are what LIGHT is all about!
- **2nd Walking in the Light = Must Affect our character**
 - This is why Paul mentions
 - The 3 divine rays that blend together to make up God's light
 - Goodness = To Others
 - Right-ness = Before God
 - Truth = In ALL things
 - **1st Ray of Light = Goodness**

- Speaks of more than just - Moral Excellence
 - It is Aggressive Goodness
- It is Goodness that
 - Actively seeks to meet the needs of others.
 - Can't stand to see others in need or hurting.
 - Goes out of its way to be a blessing to others.
 - Doesn't have to be manipulated or appealed to, it's quick to see the need and quick to respond.
 - So the light of God produces aggressive goodness in the life of the believer.
- **2nd Ray of Light = Righteousness**
 - Right – Before God
 - But Also
 - Is simply doing the right thing
 - But here is the catch
 - It's doing the right thing from God's perspective
 - It's doing the God thing.
 - RIGHTEOUS CONDUCT
- **3rd Ray of Light = Truth**
 - Greek: Aletheia –
 - Means:

- What is true in any matter under consideration; that kind of mind, which is free falsehood, deceit
- Literally, “not hidden”. I think this is one of the key ideas behind the concept of “light”. “Light” uncovers things hidden in darkness.
- Has to do with honesty, integrity, reliability, Trustworthy
- It’s a character thing more than a spoken thing.
 - A literal translation of this word would be closer to genuine
- **Application**
 - So this will be the fruit of the light of God shining in you
 - Goodness
 - Righteousness
 - Truth
 - They are going flow out of your life as a result of the light of God shining into your life.
 - This is walking in the light.
 - The result is that you will prove, what is pleasing to the Lord.

• **Second: Finding Out What is Acceptable**

- **1st Finding Out – Putting to the Testing**

Ephesians 5:10 (NKJV)
10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

- **Finding Out – Greek: Dokimazo**

- Means:
 - A word that was used in the testing of metals to see if they were genuine.
 - Putting something to the test, seeing if it's the real thing, and then putting your approval on the thing being tested.

- **Part of learning to walk in the light**

- Is putting the things in my life to the test to see if they are acceptable
 - Well pleasing to the Lord.
 - Illustration
 - Sometimes before a couple gets engaged, a gal takes her boyfriend home to meet the parents and see if he “passes the test”.
 - Do the things in my life “pass the test” with God?

- **Every day – WE make a series of choices.**

- We choose if we want to walk in the light or lurk in the dark.
- Will We -
 - Tell the customer the truth, or lie to make a sale?...
 - Confess that we were wrong, or in our pride continue to deny our failure?...

- Pursue what's wholesome, or indulge in what's sinful?...
- When we walk as “children of light” there are 2 Results...
 - We prove what's good
 - We expose what's evil.

My Purpose Is To Shine In The World vv. 11-14

• First: Have NO Fellowship v. 11

- 1st Have NO FELLOWSHIP With Darkness v. 11a

Ephesians 5:11 (NKJV)

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

▪ **1st Greek: Sugkoinoneo (“with” + “fellowship”) –**

- Means: to this word comes from the word koinoneo,
- Which means to come into communion or fellowship with, to become a sharer, be made a partner.
- The word “communion” is translated from a form of this word
- Communion is where we “share” together in the bread and the juice.
- The point is that you can't be light and dark at the same time.

▪ **2nd No Fellowship**

- Don't get Entangled with the Habits and Practices of this world.

- Paul wrote

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

- Paul tells us to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness...”
- Application
 - PLEASE NOTE - What this DOES NOT mean
 - Paul doesn't say avoid contact with the people of this world.
 - We need to be in the WORLD Connecting with People
 - What this DOES MEAN
 - Just don't blend in.
 - Don't mesh your lifestyle with the world's lifestyle.
 - Don't adopt their values and priorities.
 - Sadly –
 - *Too many Christians today, rather than “children of the light,” they’ve become “children of the twilight.”*
 - Illustration
 - Are you a Thermostat or Thermometer?

● **Second: But rather expose them - Sin gets exposed v. 11b**

- **1st Expose Evil v. 11b**

Ephesians 5:11 (NKJV)

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather expose them.**

- **Not Enough to Avoid this Evil**

- We must also expose it to the LIGHT

- MacArthur; *"The Christian's responsibility does not stop with his own rejection of evil. He is also responsible for exposing and opposing darkness wherever it is found, especially when it is found in the church"*

- We TAKE A STAND

- Kent Hughes *"Our culture loves the "open-minded," nonjudgmental, "live and let live" personality. The problem is, God's Word allows us no such luxury. If the Scripture calls something wrong, we dare not call it otherwise. This is not to suggest that believers have a license to go around looking as grim as death, maliciously mouthing our "Don'ts." What it does mean is that we must call sin what it is and expose it."*

- **Light Naturally Exposes the Darkness**

- You Expose Darkness

- By being a real Christian...

- Praying in a restaurant
- Church on Sundays – neighbors look on – There goes the Christians
- Shows in your work ethic

- Shows in your love for others
- Shows in Behavior
 - Refrain from gossip at work
 - Not Laughing at the dirty jokes
- We Also NEED to stand
 - There are times we need to Stand & Shine
 - Expose Evil for what it is
 - Illustration
 - Liberalism / Wokeness / Progressivism = EVIL = Destroying our nation
 - It is VERY clear that this ideology is ANTI God
 - They have PUSH God out of everything
 - Our Nation was headed toward the ash0heap of history
 - So every pulpit in America
 - Has a DUTY to expose this darkness
 - This is not Politics – Its standing up for what is right
 - Question
 - WHY have so many professing Christians

become confused on the evil
this ideology has produced?

- Answer

- Pastors are afraid they
would lose their churches

- BUT here the thing –

- We must remember the person – the
soul –

- God wants the SOUL saved – not an
augment won

- Be Christ Like

- **2nd But this is where the Conflict Arises...**

John 3:19 (NKJV)

19 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.

- **The World Does not want to SEE or HEAR the Light**

- Illustration

- When you're sound asleep and somebody flips on
the lights, what's your reaction?

- Well, it's not pleasant, or welcoming...

- **Ways the World will respond to the Light...**

- 1st People Attack

- They get angry at you for disturbing their comfort
and their slumber

- Illustration

- Bart Train / man reading a Bible
- 2nd People Avoid
 - They try to avoid you and hope you go away.
- 3rd People will be Indifferent
 - That good glad you have “Your truth” – whatever makes you happy
- 4th Some People Will Appreciate.
 - They’ll thank you for waking them.
- **Ways the Carnal Believers Will Respond to the Light...**
 - Sadly there are Christians that are not living like they should
 - They are in fellowship with this world
 - One foot in One foot out if you will
 - They Are Lukewarm
 - They are the HARDEST to deal with
 - *Lukewarm Christianity has become so normal that Biblical Christianity seems radical.*
 - Sadly they will Attempt to Destroy the messenger
 - Illustration
 - The Church in Corinth
 - We have Only 2 letters
 - Paul wrote them at least 3 if not 4 letters

- But because they were carnal – they destroyed the letters
- The Churches in Revelation
 - All had some issues
 - Laodicea – “Justice of the People” or “The People RULE” – Not God

Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV)

- 14** *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*
- 15** *‘I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.*
- 16** *So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*
- 17** *Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*
- 18** *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*
- 19** *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*
- 20** *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*
- 21** *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*
- 22** *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ’*

• **Second: For It Is Shameful v. 12**

Ephesians 5:12 (NKJV)

12 *For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*

○ **1st Shameful**

- Our sense of “shame” is gone in our culture

- There are some things that we shouldn't even dignify with words.

- **Third: BUT All Things v. 13**

Ephesians 5:13 (NKJV)

13 *But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.*

- **1st This phrase is better translated,**
 - The pure and illuminating light of God's Word exposes all the secrets of sin.

- **Fourth: Awake you Who Sleep v. 14**

Ephesians 5:14 (NKJV)

14 *Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."*

- **1st Context**
 - Most likely Paul is quoting from an old Christian Hymn as well as Part of Is 60:1
- **2nd For The Non-Believer**
 - An Invitation – Come to Jesus the LIGHT of the World
- **2nd For The Believer**
 - A Christian can be in a
 - Spiritual slumber - asleep to God
 - We need to be wide awake spiritually
 - We can't afford to be "asleep in the light."

Closing

- May We shine BRIGHT for Jesus

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “*Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.*”

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “*This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*”

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.