

Let the Lights Shine

John 8:12, I John 1:5

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Story – Child, going to see the Christmas lights in Ft. Oglethrope...The whole neighborhood got involved. Santa Clause was there collecting \$\$ for orphans. Music was playing. It was a dream come true for a child....A winter wonderland

Jesus wants our light to shine

Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1. God wants us to let this light shine, not so much with good WORDS as with good WORKS.
2. A good work is meeting a basic need in the life of another person and, wherever possible, letting his authorities get the credit for it.
3. After they are attracted by our good works (light), they will ask for “a reason of hope that is in you”.

Gen 1:1-4 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

God creates both light and darkness to use for His purposes

Why does God create darkness?

1. DARKNESS INSPIRES AWE

Exod 20:20-21 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his

fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Ills – Putting on a blindfold, glory is the excitement of removing the darkness
Story - Turning on the lights of the Christmas Tree for the 1st time
Splendor radiates from the darkness

What made the shepherds so afraid when Christ was born?

*Luke 2:8-9 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord
shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

The light shining in the darkness....made them stand in awe

2. DARKNESS REVEALS GOD'S POWER TO CREATE

*Exod 10:20-21 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let
the children of Israel go. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine
hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt,
even darkness which may be felt.*

Darkness and light are opposites....Egypt was completely dark, Israel had light

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down
from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither
shadow of turning.*

Darkness is the absence of light

We cannot measure darkness, we can measure light

When light enters, the darkness fades away

More light....less darkness

3. DARKNESS IS A FORM OF GOD'S PROTECTION

*Exod 14:19-20 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel,
removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went
from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came
between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it
was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so
that the one came not near the other all the night.*

Story – American soldiers sneaking out of prison camp at night

Had to travel by night....hide out in the daytime

4. DARKNESS IS A MOTIVATION TO SEEK THE HIDDEN THINGS OF GOD

*Job 12:22 He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the
shadow of death.*

Story – Laying the hospital bed, could not move.....I felt like I was in the hand of God

Isa 45:3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Story – Lady hearing someone walk up on her porch and knock on the door. When she went to the door, no one was there. It happened again, the same thing...The 3rd time she just said “Come on in Lord, you are always welcome here”

5. DARKNESS CONFOUNDS THE WICKED

Prov 4:19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

God allows evil to be consumed in darkness to occupy them

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

6. DARKNESS IS USED FOR PUNISHMENT

Prov 20:20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Matt 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In contrast, evil men see darkness as a facilitator of their wicked deeds
The exact opposite, God allows evil to have the desire of their heart

Isa 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

7. DARKNESS EXPLOITS THE INTENTS OF EVIL MEN

Prov 2:12-13 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

Isa 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Isa 29:15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

