

SERMON NOTES

Saturday/Sunday, November 18/19, 2023 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “LIKE NIGHT AND DAY” TEXT: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

INTRO. [Lights!] How do you feel when lights go out? Storming, flickers, then darkness. Hope for short time, but need some light: candles, lanterns, something. Can't read, type – unhappy! We need light to see.
TEXT: St. Paul says we're people of the light, children of the day. Our life & living should differ from “those sitting in darkness.” Jesus is the Light of the World & source of light in us. We're to be different as “Night & Day.”

I. UNBELIEVERS & PAGANS BELONG TO THE NIGHT

ILLUST. Hunting in woods at daybreak so different than at dusk. Dawn all comes alive, shadows resolve, clarity. Dusk all grows quiet, shapes, eerie.

- A. Scripture often points to darkness of unbelief, ethics, immorality, evil actions, lack of understanding, resistance to God's law:
 - 1. “I choose my way.”
 - 2. Luck (gambling binge of late)
 - 3. “random accidents”
- B. They search for meaning, purpose, direction – can't find it within themselves, so take hold of *something* – “-isms”
- C. Often they hold a BAD OPINION about God:
 - 1. Jesus' Parable of the Talents – “I knew you to be a hard man, harvesting where you did not sow...”
 - 2. Many view God and his Word as “harsh, unyielding, old-fashioned, retro-grade, misogynistic, exclusive, repressive”
 - 3. “I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground...”
- D. Spiritual darkness hides God's attributes and purposes.
 - 1. Leaves people oblivious
 - 2. Easily misdirected, misinformed

II. WE BELONG TO THE DAY

ILLUST. Like Night & Day: Moses/Phar, Dave/Goli, Mary/Herod, Saul/Paul

- A. Know Jesus – Know Life > in the Light, we can SEE!
 - 1. We know ourselves – sinners in need of a Savior/Redeemer.
 - 2. Know our purpose – serve the Lord by serving others, holiness
 - 3. We know our FUTURE → Heaven is our Home

ILLUST. Movies depict Last Day = Dark, fearful, death/destruction (“2012”)

- B. For the unbelievers – Last Day will be a horror, hopeless
- C. For the faithful – a day to “Lift Up Your Heads”

- 1. Our salvation is at hand!
- 2. Now we receive LIFE in the FULL.

CLOSE: Chick & Mark – lost in the Big Woods – drawn to the light by hope, rescued by the one who would not leave them. So with us – in all the darkness of world, one Light, one Savior, One who would not leave us. His Light in us makes us as different as “Night and Day”.