

Subject: Christ's Final Invitation

Scripture: John 12:35-36

We live in a confused world. As the prophet Isaiah spoke of his generation, **Isaiah 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!* Vices have become virtues. Sin is something is now celebrated and applauded. The world is dark and getting darker.

Jesus was the bright light in this dark world, and here he invites people to walk in the light and believe in the light so we may escape the darkness of this world and become children of light.

Light and darkness is one of the main themes of John.

- **John 1:4-5** ⁴ *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* ⁵ *And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*
- **John 3:17-19** ¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* ¹⁸ *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* 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.*
- **John 5:35** *He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.* For a time the people rejoiced in the light of John the Baptist.
- **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.*
- **John 9:5** *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
- **John 12:46** *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*
- **1 John 1:5-7** 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.* ⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:* ⁷ *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

THE PRIVILEGE OF WALKING IN LIGHT

Jesus reminded them in this final invitation that the time was short and their day of opportunity was passing away. Jesus had warned them of the urgency of believing in Him.

- **John 8:21** *Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*

- **John 8:24** *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

This was His final invitation to walk in the light (vs. 35) and believe in the light (vs. 36). The first thing God created was physical light and He pronounced that it was good. Then he separated or divided the light from the darkness (Gen. 1:3-4). God did the same thing in the spiritual world. He divided light from darkness. He sets one against the other. In salvation He takes us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Then He uses us to be a source of light in this world.

- **Acts 26:18** *To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*
- **Matthew 5:14-16** ¹⁴ *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.* ¹⁵ *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.* ¹⁶ *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*
- **Romans 13:12** *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Light is our defense.*
- **Ephesians 5:8** *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light. Light is the birthmark of every believer.*
- **Philippians 2:14-15** ¹⁴ *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:* ¹⁵ *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:5** *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

The Christian life is a path of light that is always getting brighter.

- **Proverbs 4:18** *But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The perfect day refers to heaven where there is glorious light and no darkness.*
- **Revelation 21:23** *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*
- **Revelation 22:5** *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

THE PITFALL OF WALKING IN DARKNESS

This was Jesus' last public appearance before the cross. He warned them that He would be with them only a little while (vs. 35). He warned them that darkness would come upon them.

This was the day when the light was going out on the people. This was the day when the sun set on the people. This was their day of opportunity.

From the context of verses 35 and 36, we see that the people Jesus spoke to were still in darkness. His words are a warning after their statement and question in verse 34. They only thought of Christ (Messiah) as a reigning ruler and not a suffering servant. In verses 37 and following Jesus makes it clear that they were still walking in darkness and their hearts were in danger of becoming hardened. They had the light with them, but the light was not in them.

The end of verse 36 has an ominous tone: Jesus departed and hid himself from them. There comes a time when God's patience runs out. There comes a time when the day of opportunity ends.

- **Proverbs 4:18-19** ¹⁸ *But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.* ¹⁹ *The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.*

For God's children the best is yet to come. But for unbelievers it only gets worse. Hell is described as a place of outer darkness.

We must walk in the light while we have the light. Some people have the light but don't walk in the light. Some have the light but don't believe in the light. If we don't walk in the light we will be overtaken by darkness.