

Lest the Light Not Shine!

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The apostle writes to the Corinthian church about Satan hiding the truth through unbelief. He said the god of this world places a veil over the hearts of unbelievers—2 Corinthians 4:3 *“Lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

It is everyone’s responsibility to resist Satan any time he tempts to cause doubt or disbelief in our heart—because the world is in rebellion against God and His Anointed One—and they willfully reject God’s Truth of the Bible. The world refuses to live by the Word of God and will not live according to the Christian principles on *holy* living explained in the Bible so they can continue living *unholy* lives.

Ever since Adam disobeyed God and fell into sin—and ever since Cain killed his brother Abel Genesis 4, the world has been in rebellion. People are drifting further and further away from God’s plan of living. 1 John 3:11 *“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother.”*

This wickedness, rebellion, and living in sin will increase in intensity as we approach the end of the world and conclude at the battle of Armageddon. Luke 21:28 *“And when these things begin to*

come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Rebellion against God and His righteous life of faith in Him, is the center of humanistic philosophy of the past three centuries—this philosophy has significantly influenced Christianity in Western culture. It is the chief characteristic of the western pop-culture that is global today. This rebellion against God is expressed through movies; television; social media; literature; education, fashion; entertainment, and news casts.

God’s true gospel of eternal salvation through faith in Jesus, has been available through the words of the Bible for centuries. Every nation has some portion of the Bible in their own native language, but the majority of people have completely turned their backs on God.

The Psalmist says God is not pleased with rebels—and He will establish Christ’s kingdom with its headquarters in Jerusalem by divine power—in spite of worldwide opposition. Psalm 2:4 *“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.”*

The Psalmist also says Psalm 2:10 *“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”*

We are warned to *submit* to the Son of God and to put our *trust* in Him today while we *have* that opportunity—as we are *not* guaranteed that opportunity tomorrow. 2 Corinthians 6:2 *“For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’*

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

In Bible times, it was customary for subjects to kiss kings. 1 Samuel 10:1 *“Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?”*

To kiss an idol was a sign of submission to the god represented by the idol. 1 Kings 19:18 *“Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”* To *“Kiss the Son”* refers to a sinner *repenting* of their rebellion against God and surrendering totally to Jesus as Lord.

God *delights* in mercy, and Jesus wants to *lighten* our burdens. Matthew 11:28 *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”*

It all comes down to *reading* and *knowing* and *accepting* and *living* God’s Truth of the Bible. 1 Timothy 2:3 *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*

We are *obligated* to repent and serve the Lord. It is *required* that we place our faith and trust in Him for everything. Obeying the Word of God is the evidence of our love *for* God—it is all part of His salvation plan. Our commitment to God is a *life-changing conversion* experience.

We *make* this commitment and then surrender *our* will to be *His* will—it is the only way to live in this temporary world while waiting for the next eternal one. The majority of people in the world will *not make* this commitment and will *not surrender* their will to God.

2 Corinthians 4:3 *“If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

It is obvious from the spiritual and moral condition of the world today that these *are* the last days. Thousands of years ago, the words were written that are now being fulfilled. 2 Peter 3:3 *“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”*

We are undeniably in the *last days*, as there are more *scoffers* today than ever, and more people *“walking after their own lusts.”* The spiritual state of the world is worse than it has ever been—and getting worse by the day. Multitudes of *unbelievers* are mocking *true believers*—saying: *When is the Lord returning? Nothing ever changes—it will never happen as you say.*

The response to this mocking—2 Peter 3:5 *“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”*

This 2000-year-old prophecy describes the unbelief, rebellion, and cynicism that prevails in this 21st century. 2 Peter 3:3 *“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers.”* That prophecy began to be fulfilled in the 19th century and which marked the beginning of what is called the *“last days”* of the church age.

The 19th century saw a definite increase of skepticism in the form of theological modernism;

humanism; Unitarianism [denies the doctrine of the Trinity]; Darwinian evolution; communism; and agnosticism. Before the 19th century, it was a general belief of even scientists, that God created the world, and that there was a global flood.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, even Cambridge University scholars believed in a worldwide Flood, but by Darwin’s day in the mid-19th century, they did not. It was the 19th century that the theory of evolution was widely accepted, and the apostle’s prophecy fulfilled. 2 Peter 3:5 *“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.”*

The apostle says that scoffers will *reject* Bible teaching that the world was made by the *word* of God. The theory of evolution is linked to agnosticism, atheism, and a general denial of supernatural power.

A friend of Darwin coined the term *agnosticism*—which is the view that man cannot know whether or not there is a God—that man can only know what he knows through *science*. Scoffers will *mention* creation 2 Peter 3:4, but they do *not* mean the *six days* of creation according to the Bible. Even Darwin used the *word* creation, but he later explained he meant *life appeared by some completely unknown process* unquote.

The Bible is a supernatural Book that alone can reveal the deep secrets of our heart. Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Concerning End Times scoffers, the Bible looks deeply into the human soul and reveals that their unbelief is *deliberate*, because their motive is to walk in their *own* lusts and not be restricted by

God’s moral laws. It is their *love* of sin that puts them in opposition to God.

The sequence is—first people refuse to *submit* to God; then they refuse to *believe*; then *Satan* blinds their minds to the truth. 2 Corinthians 4:4 *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

The *will of man* must surrender to the *will of God* for that veil to be lifted. 2 Corinthians 3:14 *“The people’s minds were hardened, and even to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, a veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.”*

Every person must eventually make their own choice about *believing* God; about *faith* in Christ; and about *trusting* on His Atonement sacrifice for conversion and salvation. Everyone will choose at some point—to *accept* the Truth of the Bible, or to *reject* the Truth by their own decision.

If anyone chooses to walk after one’s own desires and worldly ideas, it *will* produce spiritual blindness—leading to eternal destruction. Every person has the *ability* to believe or *not* believe, because God *gives* that choice—and there are serious *consequences* of that choice.

The words of Jesus keep playing over and over in our mind—John 12:46 *“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”* The *light of the glorious gospel of Christ* 2 Corinthians 4:4 is far too *valuable* and way too *eternal*, to not shine it by living it every day!



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