

From Change to Calling

#3272 26 0118A

1460wds

I *Light Provides Direction*

1 Our previous three messages reminded us of several important aspects of the Christian life. *From Dark to Different* said Jesus did not come to just *improve* our lives, but to completely *change* them—thereby rescuing us from *darkness* and *destruction* that comes from following the world.

2 Being *Different on Purpose* told us that Jesus didn't arrive in Bethlehem just to make a *better version* of who we *are*—but to make a totally *new* person of who we *must become*. He came to *change* the way we *act* and *talk* and *decide* and *respond*.

3 AV 2 Corinthians 5:17 “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”

4 This *new* creation is the only thing that will *gain* any spiritual advantage for us. If we *say* we are “*in Christ*,” it is only *words* that avails *nothing* unless connected to this *new* way of *talking* and *walking* and *acting* and *reacting*.

5 Being *different by decision* results in a complete transformation from the *dark* ways of the world to the *changed* ways of the *Light*.

6 This change does not happen by accident or because people act better around the holidays—this change is *intentional* and *on purpose*. It is a daily decision on *our* part to live under the *rule of Christ* and not be influenced by the world around us.

7 We now take the next step on our journey—to actually *Walk in the Light* Jesus came to give us, because being *different by decision* after accepting Jesus as our Master must lead us to somewhere. Christianity is not a change *in label*, it is a change *in direction*.

8 When Jesus *calls us* out of the darkness of the world with its desires, decisions, and treatment of people, He does not leave us standing on neutral ground—He leads us to scriptural ground with the promise to—AV John 16:13 “*guide you into all truth.*”

9 The imagery of light is *hope, peace, and promise*. Light in Scripture is *not passive* but *active*—it *reveals, instructs, and compels* a response.

10 NKJV John 8:12 “*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*”

11 Jesus is not saying *Whoever agrees with Me* but “*Whoever follows Me.*” Light is only helpful when we *walk in it*.

12 Coming *out* of darkness and following the *light* of the Word is *our calling*.

13 It is possible to *stand in light* and still *choose darkness*. We can *hear* the truth and still *refuse* to obey it.

14 It is why the true Christian life is not built on just *glad tidings of great joy* often heard during the holiday. *Eternal truth* that leads to an *eternal home* is knowing *Who* Jesus is; *What* He taught; and *Why* He commands us to *follow* Him.

II *Called to a Different Way*

15 Light did not *begin* in Bethlehem and Jesus did not *begin* in a manger. AV John 1:1 “*In the beginning was the Word*” and “*the Word was God.*”

16 Jesus is not just a *Teacher* who *showed* us the light, He *lived* that Light so we could *follow* His lead. He did not come so we could *blend in* with the world, but He came to make us *different from* the world.

17 Jesus came to *overcome* the dark so when we say that we *follow Jesus*, we are saying that we are following the *Light* with our new life that is much different from before. The apostle says it was the *power of God* that has NIV 2 Timothy 1:9 “*called us to a holy life.*”

18 Our divine *calling* makes us *responsible* to maintain that pathway. The apostle goes on to say that our being *called* is not due to anything we have done, but AV “*according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.*”

19 If we are *called* to *act* and *talk* and *treat* people in a *different* way from the world, then our likes and dislikes; our books and music, our entertainment and hobbies will change because we are *called* to this different way.

20 NKJV 1 Peter 2:9 “*You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*”

III Light Produces Contrast

21 There is no need to *announce* when a light is On—everyone *knows* when the switch is thrown.

22 Darkness *loses* its power when light *replaces* it—and a believer in Jesus who is walking in His Light can *replace* the dark ways and insulting words of another person. Light *looks* different without actually *trying to be* different.

23 Light reveals things people want to hide. *Walking* in His light means *allowing* Him to reveal wrong attitudes, bad habits, and selfish motives that do not reflect godly values.

24 What God *reveals* He intends to *correct* if we allow Him. What He *corrects* He intends to *restore* if we choose the *light*. No one can be changed by the light if they *refuse* to walk in it.

25 Walking in the *light of Christ* will produce a *visible difference*. We will have different values; changed priorities; and new ways to respond.

26 Our put-downs are converted to compliments; and our choices will be according to the *calling* of God to be a *special people* and a *holy nation*.

27 Walking in the light of Christ means walking under *His* authority. His grace does *not* remove obedience—it *empowers* it.

28 In referring to the Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7, Jesus is not giving *helpful* suggestions but *eternal* truths that can lead us to

eternal living. NKJV John 14:15 “*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*”

IV Light has a Destination

29 Light will always *lead* us somewhere—and it can lead us to becoming more like Christ in our *ways* and *words* and *walk*.

30 AV 1 Corinthians 11:1 “*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*” Ephesians 5:1 “*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.*”

31 Walking in light is not just *hearing of* light but is *doing* what the light would have us do.

32 Obedience builds a foundation that will stand when storms come. The world builds a foundation of sand—on emotions, opinions, and self-made plans, but following the Words of Christ builds on the foundation of His eternal Truth.

V Light Reveals Attitudes

33 Walking implies *movement*—but we cannot walk in yesterday’s obedience nor walk by yesterday’s light.

34 Each new day we choose a new infilling of His Spirit so we can make correct decisions concerning 1. *Who* we will trust; and 2. *Whether* we *obey* or *resist* what God reveals.

35 Following Jesus is *not* for a moment but a *permanent path* that leads from Bethlehem to the Mount; and from Calvary to a new way of living that reflects the glory of Christ. *That is our calling* and it will lead us to a paradise kingdom.

36 Walking the light of God’s Truth is a daily *choice* and each step strengthens our *trust* in God. When we walk in His light others can observe our

life which brings glory to God. We do not *create* the light—we *reflect* it so we will be a *visible testimony* in an ever-darkening world.

37 When we turn on the light in a cluttered room—we immediately see a mess and when the light of Christ enters our life, it can show a mess—of wrong attitudes; misplaced affections; unscriptural desires; and questionable fellowship that must be corrected.

38 NKJV 1 John 1:7 “*If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*”

39 That is an important result of *Walking in His Light!* We are cleansed in heart and ready to see Jesus.

40 Walking in His Light means being honest; it means we stop hiding wrong attitudes and excusing wrong responses; it means we stop redefining obedience and allow God’s truth to mold and make us be what *He* wants *us to be*.

41 Walking in His light means obeying His *call to be different*.



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