

## Getting Used To The Dark -1/29/23

### Great Sermons

**TEXT – 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.*

**INTRO – Sermons by great men of the past: Vance Havner**

(1901-1986) He began outdoor preaching when he was only 14 years of age and he said he didn't want to stop until he went into glory! Havner grew up in the rustic hills of North Carolina and as a youth he devoured everything he could read about God and was particularly drawn to the sermons and writings of Charles Spurgeon, the so-called "Prince of Preachers." He attended college but most consider him as being self-taught. As a child he and his family attended the old Corinth Baptist Church and frequently the visiting preachers would stay with his family.

Some of the best quotes from any Christian in history come from Havner like his quote about the church where he said *"The church is a hospital for sinners, and not a museum for saints."* He detested the social gospel because he saw it as a band aid solution which didn't address the heart issue of the necessity of repentance and faith. He felt if we give people soup and soap, they'll only be fuller and cleaner on their way to hell. He felt the social gospel never did enough and once said *"If they had a social gospel in the days of the prodigal son, somebody would have given him a bed and a sandwich and he never would have gone home."* Part of the reason he was so passionate about preaching in so many churches was because he saw that *"Plenty of church members are shaky about what they believe, while not many are shaken by what they believe."*

**Eating a meal in a fancy restaurant you eat by faith not by sight.**

**Walking through the woods at first the eyes aren't adjusted. After a short time the eyes adjust and some sight is possible**

### I. We Live in The Dark

Satan is the prince of darkness Ep.6:12

At the closing of this age the darkness has increased

Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil

Rom 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 armour of light.*

The blackness is more extensive, intensive and more accepted as it deepens before the dawn

We have never had more artificial illumination and never less light

Bodily man walks in unprecedented brilliance while his soul dwells in unmitigated darkness.

Man has the power to release nuclear glory that can outshine the sun, but his head is so far ahead of his heart that he plans his own destruction.

Man has put satellites in the sky, while he is a wandering star to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

The depths of iniquity are too vile to describe as never heard of before This darkness is not peculiar to skid row alone, but is just as prevalent among the elite.

It is gross darkness - **Isa 60:2** *For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and **gross darkness** the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

**Rom 1:21** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

**Jude describes it in 1:13** *Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

### II. We Get Used To The Dark

#### **Satan is in the Ruler of Darkness**

**Eph 6:12** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Sin becomes less sinful – We don't hate evil – We don't abstain from the appearance of evil – TV, literature, music, amusements

**Luke 17:28** *Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;*

We think the end justifies the means, but we must remember the means determines the end

**Lot became accustomed to evil in Sodom – Died in disgrace. We need to turn the light in on in Sodom rather than getting used to the dark.**

**No one turns the light on in Sodom**

**Hash is a mixture – I don't eat it when away from home because I don't know what's in it. I don't eat it at home because I do know what's in it!**

**There is a slow, subtle, and sinister brainwashing process in the world and we have become **conditioned** rather than **convicted**.**

We think it is mind broadening while it is really conscience stretching

**Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, as to be hated, needs but to be seen; yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, we first endure, then pity, then embrace. –ALEXANDER POPE**

**We seek borderline rather than Beulah Land**

**We cannot coexist with evil.**

Many teens are asking how much of the world can I incorporate and still be a Christian.

We should ask, "How much can I be like Christ?"

**Bunyan's Vanity Fair - And as they wondered at their apparel, so they did likewise at their speech; for few could understand what they said; they naturally spoke the language of Canaan, but they that kept the fair were the men of this world; so that, from one end of the fair to the other, they seemed barbarians each to the other.**

**Sin has become less sinful – not exceedingly sinful**

**Romans 7:13** *Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

**There is no inner protest - We don't hate evil**

**1 Thessalonians 5:22** *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

Do we look different from the world in clothes, conversation, or conduct?

**Tragedy today has become comedy!**

**Black and white has been smudged into gray.**

**Christians must learn how to walk in the light not in the dark.**

**Jeremiah 6:14** *They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.*

**The woman at the well Jesus spoke of her sin.**

**Hollywood cannot portray Christianity.**

**We must not act like a thermometer to check the temperature but a thermostat to change the temperature.**

**Matthew 5:13** *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

**Everything is revealed when the light's turned on.**

**America spends more money on dog food and chewing gum than missions. We must let our light shine.**

### III. We Must Live In The Light

#### **Jesus Brings Men Into The Light**

**John 12:46** *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

**Col 1:13** *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

#### **Christians Are To Flee From Darkness**

**Eph 5:11** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

**1 Pe 2:9** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

### IV. Judgment Is Reserved in Darkness

**John 3:19-20** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

#### **A. Tribulation**

**Rev 8:12** *And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

**Rev 16:10** *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,*

#### **B. The final estate of all unsaved**

**Mat 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.*

**Jud 1:6** *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

**CONCL – Let's let our light shine in a dark world**

**We must not hide our light under a bushel or under a bed.**

**Christians must not be at ease in Zion.**