

“The Bright Lighted Path” Proverbs 4:18-19

18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. Proverbs 4:18–19 (NKJV)

God would guide us through this dark world. Both Jesus and the Bible are called “Lights” –

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NKJV)

1 Nun 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

1. Not a small lamp or candle, but a bright shining sun!

18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun... Proverbs 4:18 A (NKJV)

1. Like the sun, God’s light is a pleasurable, comforting thing –

7 Truly the light is sweet, And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; Ecclesiastes 11:7 (NKJV)

A. When Florida is called the sunshine state, we usually consider that a good thing!

B. Sunshine is a comforting thing, the song / hymn communicates this -

There is sunshine in my soul today, more glorious and bright than glows in any earthly sky, for Jesus is my light.

Refrain:

O there’s sunshine, blessed sunshine, When the peaceful happy moments roll:
When Jesus shows His smiling face, there is sunshine in the soul.

2 There is music in my soul today, A carol to my King, And Jesus, listening, can hear the songs I cannot sing. [Refrain]

3 There is springtime in my soul today, for when the Lord is near, The dove of peace sings in my heart, The flowers of grace appear. [Refrain]

4 There is gladness in my soul today, and hope and praise and love for blessings which He gives me now, for joys "laid up" above. [Refrain]

2. *This light is needed for sight and understanding, it shows us our path, guides our steps –*

A. *It is needed because the right way is NARROW –*

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

A narrow path we might fall or wander OFF; if we are not seeing it clearly, and few find this path at all because they do not see it, walking in the dark.

B. *Christ is the Path / the Way –* **⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)**

C. *In Jesus Christ’s Light, we see the glorious bright face of God the Father -*
⁷ “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” John 14:7 (NKJV)

¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:1–3 (NKJV)

D. *He purged our sins -*

²² I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.” Isaiah 44:22 (NKJV)

Our sins, like dark clouds, block our sight, they make sweet day time seem like night! It is the PURE in heart, that see God –

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

E. *God is a Sun and a Shield to His people –*

¹¹ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11 (NKJV)

F. God's way is the Path of Life and Pleasure, eternal pleasure -

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

G. It is the path God lights with "wisdom" it is the "right" path(s), on this path God enables your way –

¹¹ I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. ¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. ¹³ Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life. Proverbs 4:11–13 (NKJV)

H. God's path grows brighter and brighter the longer we walk it -

...that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4:18 B

¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

II. God's lighted path is the opposite of the WAY of the wicked –

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. Proverbs 4:19 (NKJV)

1. There is a way that SEEMS right, but is NOT –

¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

²⁵ There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)

*"Hello darkness my old friend, I've come to talk with you again."
Paul Simon*

2. *Beware of feeling comfortable in darkness, beware of counting “darkness” a friend –*

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. John 3:19–20 (NKJV)

Like roaches, the ungodly scurry in darkness, their deeds they do in darkness; they HATE the LIGHT, especially moral and spiritual light.

3. *Darkness = Dangerous Ignorance –*

...they do not know what makes them stumble. Proverbs 4:19 (NKJV)

4. *Walking in darkness means not seeing God, maybe not even believing in God –*

¹ The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. Psalm 14:1 (NKJV)

²

A. *It leads to corruption of nature / morals ...*

B. *Bad and worse deeds!*

5. *Walking in darkness means not seeing God’s judgment in your path –*

Consider Balaam and his donkey described in Numbers 22

²² Then God’s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³ Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. ²⁴ Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side. ²⁵ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall; so he struck her again. ²⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. ²⁷ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the

LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. ²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" ²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" ³⁰ So the donkey said to Balaam, "*Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?*" And he said, "No." ³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. ³² And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your way is perverse before Me.* ³³ The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." Numbers 22:22–33 (NKJV)

6. Just as Balaam, those walking the WRONG way, walking in darkness, HATE the Light, they don't see God's wrath, they only FEAR the wrath (anger) of men –

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 14:9-11 (NKJV)

7. The godly walk and live in the LIGHT of God's commands and they fear not what sinful men might do to them. They are ready to die in the Lord -

¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: '*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.*' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." Revelation 14:12-13 (NKJV)

A. *See the anti-Christ / the Beast will kill the Saints, all ungodly governments war to one degree or another against the light –*

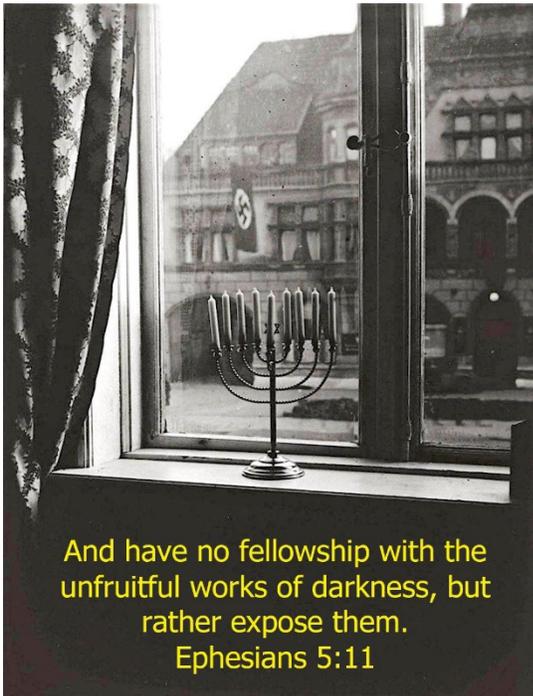
⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. Revelation 13:7 (NKJV)

B. *But the saints are well instructed, by the light of God's Word –*

⁴ “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Luke 12:4–5 (NKJV)

III. The godly are lights in this dark world –

³ Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3 (NKJV)



And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:11

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are in the house*. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:14–15 (NKJV)

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. Ephesians 5:11 (NKJV)

“The word ἐλέγχειν, which is translated *expose*, answers to the metaphor of darkness; for it literally means to drag forth to the light what was formerly unknown. ...He calls them unfruitful works; because they not only do no good, but are absolutely hurtful.” John Calvin

Preaching against sin, calling it out for what it is, is exposing sin. Abortion is murder, not “healthcare.” Homosexuality is a perversion, an abomination to God, it is not “gay.”

Evolution is not science, rather it is idolatry,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:23

LIES, LIES and more LIES! Are more obvious when the Light of God’s truth shines on them!

Arnold A. Brevick