



Sermon, Sunday October 10, 2021

“Live as People of Light”

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-14 ¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. ⁵Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be associated with them. ⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Introduction: North Korean defectors and the light

Korea is the only country in the world that is divided because of ideology. More than 33,000 people have fled in search of freedom from the poor communist dictatorship of North Korea., and many of them live in South Korea. When most North Koreans are asked to come to South Korea and talk about the best thing about the differences, they answer that it is freedom. They say they are happy to have the freedom to travel freely and choose what they want in South Korea.

However, the most surprising thing for North Koreans living in South Korea when they first arrive in South Korea is that there are so many cars, the roads are so well done, and the electricity is so plentiful. This is because the power shortage in North Korea is very serious. In North Korea, only the privileged class living in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, has a decent supply of electricity. North Korea's electricity conditions in other areas, except for Pyongyang, are very poor, so North Koreans who come to South Korea for the first time are amazed by South Korea's bright night scenes which are illuminated like daytime. So the defectors who live in South Korea say "North Korea's young dictator Kim Jong-Un is saying that he will make South Korea a sea of fire with nuclear weapons and missiles, but South Korea really is a sea of fire." In fact, the night scenery of Korean cities is as bright and colorful as the daytime. The defectors experience and learn for the first time what a prosperous life is like when they discover life in South Korea.

The Bible, the Word of God, also testifies about the abundance and freedom that light gives us. **Romans 13:12-13 says: “The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.” And in today's text, it says, “Live as children of light.”** Also, Genesis chapter 1 of the Old Testament says, when God created the heavens and the earth, He said let there be light in the midst of darkness, and God liked that light.

In this way, light reveals darkness and guides us toward goodness, righteousness, and truth. **So today's text 5:8 says. “For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light”** Then, what does the Bible testify about light?



Body: Jesus, the Light of the World, the Role and Attributes of Light

1. The Bible testifies that Jesus is the light of the world.

In Gospel of John chapter 1, Jesus is said to be the light that was from the beginning. **John 1:4-5 testifies. “In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” Also, John 1:9 says, “The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.”**

The Bible, the Word of God, testifies that Jesus came as the light of the world to save souls who would die in their sins. So, what we most need in this world is Jesus who leads us to life. So, what role does light play in the world and in our lives?

2. The role of light

The source of all life in this world is light. Without light, no life could exist. In the Bible, God who created everything in the universe is the light (1 John 1:5), and Jesus Christ who saved the people of the world which have already died spiritually because of their sins and transgressions is the light (John 8:12), and the children of the Lord who testify Gospel of Christ to the world are called light.(Matthew 5:14)

So, Jesus said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world.” **Matthew 5:14-15 says: “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”** The reason Jesus said this is because the Pharisees, the teachers of the law, and Jews who rejected Him in His day considered themselves to be the light of the world. But they did not fulfill the role of light in the world.

However, when Jesus said to his disciples, ‘You are the light of the world,’ it is not because they are better than others and are purer in their conduct. The reason Jesus said so is because the disciples believed in Jesus Christ and received the mission to testify to the world of Jesus, who is the light. In this way, Jesus made us children of light and sent us out to the world as witnesses to proclaim the Gospel. So, today's text, Ephesians 5:8: “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” means the Lord's command to live as His disciples and witness to the world.

Therefore, we must live a life that bears witness to the world for Jesus Christ, who is the light of life. Then, what is the essence of Jesus, the light of life that we testify?

3. Jesus, the light of life

1) The light of Jesus always shines straight.

The light of Jesus is not bent under any circumstances. What's wrong with this world? The world suffers from wrong and crooked human thoughts, dishonest and crooked words, and dishonest and crooked actions. However, Jesus, the light of life, always shines straight in the world. We must be able to illuminate the world through this light, too.

2) The light of Jesus transcends time, space, and circumstances.

Also, the light of Jesus transcends time and space. What this means is that we, who are called to be the light of the world, have no excuse for not being able to live our lives as children of light for any reason. The Lord's infinite grace is freely given to us, but that grace is freely given does not mean that the Lord will not question our responsibility as children of light. Therefore, we must not forget that we are required to live and take responsibility as the children of light.

3) The light of Jesus does not change.

The light of Jesus does not change no matter the circumstances or changes in the times. Therefore, as children of light, we must continue to carry out our mission. Therefore, regardless of our moods, emotions, and



circumstances, we must carry out the mission of witnessing the gospel. We must be able to carry out our mission whether others recognize our hard work or not.

Because the source of our joy is the joy that comes from the Lord's relationship, rather than the recognition of our hard work by others, we may live the life we have been given and have a deeper communion with the Lord.

Conclusion: Live as people of light!

Now let's summarize today's sermon. The Bible says that the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. God created light. When we get rid of situations that block the light and face Jesus, who is the light, life is restored and we are saved. The Lord's command to walk as children of light clearly shows that faith is not just a word and confession, but that it bears the fruit of love through repentance and deeds. We bless you that we may bear abundant fruit in our lives that are called as children of light.

