

THE

HARVESTER

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

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LIGHT

Have you ever tried to imagine a world of total darkness? I thank the Lord that I have two healthy eyes with which to see all the beautiful things in this world around me. But I know there are some who are not as fortunate. They must live their lives in total darkness. But I simply cannot imagine how they do it. I cannot conceive of living in a world of absolute, never ending darkness. I often wonder what it must be like. But I hope and pray that I never have to find out.

Have you ever noticed what people do when the lights go out? We immediately begin to fumble around trying to light a candle or a kerosene lamp or anything that will give us just a little bit of light. We feel helpless without

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light to see by. And indeed we are helpless. We rely so heavily upon our sight that we become confused and disoriented without it. But one little candle can be so comforting as its flame penetrates the depths of the darkness that surrounds us.

Many people are even scared of the dark. They say it's not the dark they are scared of though, but rather what may be in the dark that they cannot see. While this may be partially true, I believe that to some extent, we all experience a degree of uneasiness due to the darkness itself. It may not be fear, but there is still something there. Human beings are by nature creatures of light. Our bodies require exposure to sunlight to remain healthy. Our eyes are equipped to see only when there is a fair amount of light. And no matter how long you work a night shift, your body will never fully adjust to it. We are creatures of light and simply do not feel at home in darkness.

Now I ask you, how would you like to live in total darkness, forever? This is the fate promised to those who do not obey God. *"And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Matthew 25:30) We can only imagine the horror of what is promised to the unrighteous: a place of eternal pain and suffering, a place where there is no light to comfort us. Saying that there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth probably does not even begin to describe the feelings of anguish that those tormented souls will experience. Does this sound like a place where you would like to live?

This place called Hell was made especially for all those who do not have God's light shining in their lives. If you live in light you shall inherit eternal light. But if you live in

darkness you will be damned to a place where not even one flicker of light can ever enter. And you can never leave there, it will be your home for eternity. Certainly you do not desire this, especially when it can be avoided so easily. God has made it so easy for us to escape this unbearable end. God sent His Son Jesus Christ *"to give LIGHT to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."* (Luke 1:79a) God has been so gracious to us, shall we then be so foolish as to pass up this opportunity for the temporary pleasures of sin?

John so beautifully described for us the light of redemption that God has bountifully shone upon all mankind. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the LIGHT of men. And the light shineth into darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* (John 1:1-13)

Praise God for the light! the light of salvation that can illuminate our path, and show us the way of righteousness that leads unto

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eternal life. Oh how wretched and miserable mankind would be without this glorious light. And again praise God for His grace, love and mercy: a love that is unlike any other we have ever known. John tells us that the life of Jesus is this light. His shining and perfect example shows us the way of God that we must follow. But the world, enveloped in the darkness of sin, could not comprehend the light. *"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."*

God has given us the SUN to make our life possible on this earth. God has given us the SON to make life possible beyond the earth. Without the warming rays of the sun this planet would be totally dark and frigid. It would be impossible for life as we know it to exist. And without the glorious light of the Son of God, spiritual life would be impossible also. But God has not deserted us on either end. He has given us the sun to bring light and warmth to our day, and He has given us His Son to bring light and warmth to our hearts.

But as John told us, the world did not understand nor receive the light that Jesus offered. But rather they chose to *"grope in the dark without light."* (Job 12:25a) It mystifies me when people find the light, yet

refuse to accept it. Why would people rather stumble around in darkness lost and confused? What does the world have to offer that compares to the glory of God?

Solomon put it all in perspective this way. *"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble."* (Proverbs 4:18-19) Sad as it is to say, the world is filled with those too foolish to walk in the light. They would rather live the life of an idiot continually stumbling about in darkness, than that of a glorified child of God walking in the light. Do not let Jesus' sufferings for you be in vain. He lived, suffered, bled and died for you and I alike. And He said, *"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* (John 8:12b) He came to save people from their sins and *"to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith which is in me."* (Acts 26:18)

Are you walking in the light? Remember what John said of those that accepted Christ and are walking in His light? *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* (John 1:12-13) He says they were born of God, not of the will of man. If you say you are walking in the light, are you sure it is THE light? Man continually tries to offer imitations. But don't allow yourself to be like a moth attracted to a headlight. The light looks appealing but is deadly. Examine

the light to insure it is genuine, before you end up as another splatter on the windshield of the Devil's hellbound express.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!

1. What was the name of Rebekah's nurse?
2. How many times did Samson lie to Delilah about the secret of his strength?
3. Why did Jesus say all men would hate the disciples?
4. In Isaiah's prophecy, what will live with the lamb when the Branch of Jesse arises?
5. Which name is found more often in scripture: Jesus or Christ?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who spoke until midnight in Troas? PAUL (Acts 20:7)
2. Where were the poles for carrying the ark stored? THEY WERE NEVER REMOVED FROM THE ARK (Exo. 25:15)
3. What is the reward of the man who does not yield to temptation? HE SHALL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE (Jas. 1:12)
4. According to Isaiah 43, who was formed, redeemed, called, and possessed by the Lord? ISRAEL (Isa. 43:1)
5. How was the earth watered before the great flood? MIST FROM THE GROUND (Gen. 2:6)

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"Gentlemen: Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications ... I've been a preacher with much success and also some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I've been a leader most places I've been."

"I'm over 50 years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places I have left town after my work has caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still get a great deal done. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I've not got along well with religious leaders in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you."

The board member looked over the committee. "Well, what do you think? Shall we call him?"

The good church folks were aghast. Call an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded ex-jailbird? Was the board member crazy? Who signed that application? Who had such colossal nerve?

The board member eyed them all keenly before he answered. "It's signed, 'The Apostle Paul'."

--Author Unknown--

Submitted by Buster Boyd
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GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
April 1-6	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL	Various speakers
April 16-22	Oak Grove Church Eubank, KY	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
April 27-29 (F-Su)	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL 7:00pm on Fri & Sat	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)

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WHAT COUNTS IS NOT THE NUMBER OF HOURS YOU PUT
IN, BUT HOW MUCH YOU PUT IN THE HOURS.

A PESSIMIST IS A PERSON WHO COMPLAINS OF THE
NOISE WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS.

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CREDENTIALS RECITE FACTS

[NOTE: The following article appeared in the Dear Abby section of the newspaper many years ago. Though we may not agree with all the ideas implied, the message is loud and clear!]

One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a good minister. A member of an official board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He'd watched the Pastoral Relations Committee reject applicant after applicant for some fault, alleged or otherwise. It was time for a bit of soul-searching on the part of the committee. So he stood up and read a letter purporting to be from another applicant.

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