

Promote The Light

By: Titus West

Most people have some sort of streaming service in this period in time and everything out there has advertisements. Whether it's coming from our phone or TV while we're watching movies, shows, listening to music or playing games, very dark content is delivered straight to our minds through ads. This content glorifies Satan, demons, blaspheming of God, torturing people, doing hardcore drugs, having inappropriate conversations with children, having inappropriate relationships as adults, etc.

Honestly, it's started to overwhelm me lately. So much so that I have begun to worry about what these ads, however short they may be, are doing to the mentality of me and my children as we try to innocently enjoy entertainment.

Simply stated, darkness of all forms is commonly promoted to children and adults, and this has an adverse effect on the mind.

This is in no way new. Promotion of darkness has been a part of every society ever since the serpent promoted the fall of man. It's alluring to be edgy and shocking. It's cool to root for the anti-hero who is doing awful stuff, but "only to the bad guys." Let us not be fooled, the promotion of darkness is from Satan. It is him tickling our ears and deceiving our hearts into thinking we are able to be more than we are on our own. His goal is to make sin seem a little less wrong with each promotion. Satan

manipulates our feelings promoting the ideas that if it feels right, even if it's wrong, it must be right.

Christ, however, has called His people to be promoters of light. In the telling of his conversion to King Agrippa, Paul says that he went from serving Satan to serving God, comparing the change in his walk from darkness to light (Acts 26:18). Jesus says, *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*
– John 8:12

The people who follow Christ are called Christians and Christians do not promote darkness. Instead, they should be trying to rid their lives of it, and they definitely should not desire it! Unfortunately, we do; it's part of our walk. So, how do we as Christians keep darkness far away from us?

One way is to promote light. If Jesus is the light of the world, then we must promote Jesus in our lives. Ephesians 5:8-9 tells us to walk in the light, "for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord."

We must study. We must continue to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures. We must practice what we come to understand. To follow and do the Word of God is to promote light in the darkness. Look to Jesus, who is the

Word. Follow the Word, which is Jesus. And finally, do the Word, which is our light overcoming darkness.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
— John 1:1-5



Take Time To Worship God

Selected Article

What a joy it is to assemble with God's people and worship God on the first day of the week. Many do not take the time to worship God, which is an absolute shame. I feel sorry for those who are not doing what they were created for.

Worship is what makes us different from animals. Animals have brains but their brains do you not think the way ours do. Every human knows deep down inside that there is more to life than just this life. It's true that some will deny it and will say they don't believe in an afterlife. Those who do so are suppressing a wisdom that they were born with.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says,
"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart," (ESV)

We did not evolve from animals. The world is not a cosmic chemical accident. You and I have a Creator, a being beyond the limits of space and time, who made us for a purpose. When we worship the one who created us, we are fulfilling our purpose, like a tool being used the correct way or a musical instrument

in the hands of a trained musician. When we don't worship the one who created us we worship something else; money, pleasure, self, man's knowledge.

If you worship, if you place first in your life, pay define homage to and seek guidance from any of these earthly things, they will turn your life down a path which was never intended for you. You are free to do so. The God who created you gives you free will to do as you choose. But He does so with the hope that you will come to realize His way is better. His wisdom is far superior to your own. God's blessings on each of you who are assembled this morning with other believers to do what God made you to do.

Sing, pray, give, serve and absorb His Word.



Upcoming Events

Sun. Feb. 26– Chili Cook-off fellowship meal after evening service. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway.

Sun. March 5: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45pm service. Please bring a potluck dish/dessert to share.

Sun. March 12: Youth devo after evening worship services at the home of Ron and Mary Jo White. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

March 2-5, 2023: Arise and Overcome at South-west church of Christ.

March 5-8: Gospel Meeting at Portland church of Christ

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Virginia Escojido who is recovering from surgery.

Joyce Faires who is ill at home.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick.

Sign up sheets for hosting Youth Devos, preparing communion, and opening & closing the building for 2023 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Service Roster

Week of February 19, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Dan Fielder
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Jeff Cannady
Closing Prayer..... Ken Dorries

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ken Dorries
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Jack Jobs

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Steve Randle
Closing Prayer..... Will Burleson

Lord's Supper & Offering..... .. Ken Dorries/
Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song Leader Ken Dorries
Devotional Steve Randle

Other

Prepare Communion Bass Family

Congregational News

Birthdays

Curtis Pantel.....Feb. 19
Virginia Escojido.....Feb. 21
Simon Cammock.....Feb. 24

Food Helpers for the month of Feb. - Team B.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my
children walk in truth.”
3 John verse 4

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of February 12, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....71
A.M. Worship.....106
P.M. Worship.....68
Wednesday Bible Class.....60

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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