

EPHESIANS

WALK IN LIGHT

Monday, September 28

Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Ephesians 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light* **9** *(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)* **10** *and find out what pleases the Lord.* **11** *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them...* **14** *"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

Notice Paul does not say that we are IN the light; he says we ARE light! Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14). Believers are no longer to live in the darkness of their old life which is fruitless. They are to live for what pleases God and expose the shameful sin of the world. We do this by shining the light of God's Word in the darkness through our words and actions.

Ephesians 5:14 may be an early hymn sung by the church. It is a reminder to stop living in the shadow of our former lives when we were 'dead in transgressions and sins' (2:1). We are to live out what we already are – children of light.

LESSON ONE: "Exposed By the Light." Light scatters darkness. It also reveals the truth. Those who live in the darkness of sin don't worry about pleasing God. As Christians, we are to shine God's light in their darkness and expose how useless their sinful lives really are! We do this through living godly lives and speaking God's truth to counter Satan's lies. How bright is your light shining? What might be making your light for Christ dim?

LESSON TWO: "Wake Up...Rise From the Dead." There are many Christians who need to hear this warning. They are asleep in the light! They soak in the blessings and teachings of God's Word but do nothing about it. They "sit, soak, and sour!" Worse, some are dead in the light. They say they are Christians but their life shows no evidence of Christ's love. When Christ's light shines on us we will not be able to keep it to ourselves. In what ways would you say your light is shining out to others? In what ways might your light be hidden? How can you shine Christ's light more brightly this week?

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.