Intro: 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

The Two key verses in Ephesians are 2:8, 9 and 5:1.

• Christ taught us that He is the light of the world. A beacon that sits on a hill for all the world to see. So, as Christians, which means Christ-like, we too should be a light set high on a hill for all the world to see. We should not hide it, but let it shine, knowing that this light will point out our own flaws and sins.

I. Walking in the Light should be our nature – 8 for at one time you were darkness, *but now you are light in the Lord*.

a. We were at one time darkness

• That’s right, you read it for yourselves, you were not good (and still are not). Your works, how much you make, how many charities you support, what church you go to, how much money you tithe on, and what name statis you have, to God before your salvation was considered “darkness”. You were considered “darkness”. You did not have the Light of Christ in you.

° 12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “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

b. We are now the Light of Christ

• We do not live in darkness, but with Christ we live in the light of Christ. We don’t have any darkness in our world, and sin does not remain in us.

° 46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. John 12:46

c. For darkness to no longer remain in us the Spirit must always remain in us

• These scripture does not take away our free will, but instead challenges us not to break our relationship with Jesus and stay close to the Spirit. This will lead to our next point.

° 9 (for the fruit of light (*Spirit* – *some manuscripts use the word Spirit in place of Light*) is found in all that is good and right and true), Ephesians 5:9

II. Walking in the Light will bear fruit of the Spirit – Walk as children of light 9 (*for the fruit of light* is found in all that is good and right and true),

a. Our Goodness is not what is in the Light, so How do we show goodness

1. Treating others with respect

2. Encouraging others instead of discouraging them

3. Showing the peace of God instead of causing trouble

• Notice that a Christian will reflect the goodness of Christ. We are not good, but he is not only Good, but also Righteous. You can also find the remainder of the fruit of light in Gal. 5:22.

° 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4

b. Our righteousness is not what is in the Light

1. There are those who stress being righteous and not doing righteousness

2. There are those who stress doing righteousness and not being righteous

3. We need to understand the balance between having Christ and living Christ

• We have a generation of Church members who just think that I can live loose and free, which I believe they have a false sense of security. And then there are those who think that if they just work enough that would show God, that they are good enough, which I also believe that this is another false sense of security. There needs to be an understanding of scripture that both need to be righteous. Christ must and always will be center, then use the fruit of the Spirit to show God’s goodness.

° 18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith (*first*) by my works (*second*). James 2:18

c. Our truth is not what is in the Light

1. It is Christ’s Truth that sets us free from worry

° 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17

2. It is Christ’s Truth that sets us free from sin

° 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31, 32

3. It is Christ’s Truth that sets us free from death

° 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, John 11:25

4. It is Christ’s Truth that sets us from judgment

° 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

• If you think for a moment that some how you’re suddenly righteous, and has nothing to hide, then you are a liar. I know that is not acceptable preaching these days, but once again it is the truth of Christ that begs to differ with you.

° 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? John 8:45-46

III. Walking in the Light will show what is pleasing to God – 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

a. As we walk in the Light he proves what is and is not acceptable

• We have for years preached that Jesus will accept you just as you are, and we stopped right there. We never taught that while Jesus accepted you as a sinner, there must be a true change to be truly accepted. Christ changes you and if there is not change then there is no salvation. You need to accept Christ for who He is, Holy and righteous, who died for your sins, that you are somehow not accepting as a sin.

° 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

b. As we walk in the Light He discriminates against sin

• Yes, Christ will discriminate against sin, but never against the sinner. It is a matter of God’s nature, not his preference. He doesn’t discriminate against anyone, but if that person decides to walk against the principles of God, God will give them their hearts desire, to live with the guilt of their sin for all eternity.

° 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” Romans 4:7, 8

c. As we walk in the Light we will live as Christ will have us too

• There is something to be said about experience. Living out our Christian life with each passing day brings on a wealth of experience. As we get older, we become wiser and more experienced. Then we reach the senior adult age, and we revert to our teen years thinking that we now know everything, and yet we still know nothing. We must keep Christ centered in our lives because He know everything.

° 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. Philippians 1:21-23