

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

Chapter 11- Luke 11:33-36

222- The Eye is the Lamp of the Body

October 6, 2013

Luke 11:33-36

33 "No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.

34 The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.

35 Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness.

36 If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."

Now the most dominant and consistent feature in this physical world is the reality of two components:

1. Light
2. Darkness

At any given moment of every single day- half the world is in darkness while the other half is in light. And so the physical experience of light and darkness is the single most *universal* experience that we have in this life.

And because it is a universal experience- the concepts of both light and darkness provided the Biblical writers and even the Lord Himself with wonderful analogies which can be used to teach deep and profound spiritual Truth.

And we use those metaphors all the time. We say things like "*I was listening and I didn't understand it until the light went on.*" And in that case- we understand that "light" is used as a metaphor for understanding- for something that's clear and perceivable. Or we say "*I*

heard the words but I was in the dark as to what he meant." which means that he didn't understand. And you hear Church people say, *"I used to be going in the wrong direction- but I saw the light."*- meaning that they understood they were lost and now they are found.

And the reason we understand statements like that is because of our universal experience of both light and darkness. So the basic concept is that "light" reveals and "darkness" hides and that light is "Good" while darkness is really, really "Bad". And so it is also true to say that absolute Light reveals absolutely and absolute darkness covers or hides absolutely. In fact, the Apostle Paul articulated this self-evident reality in **Ephesians 5:11-13** when he said:

Ephesians 5:11-13

11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

And that is why blindness is so terrible. Because even though light is everywhere- a blind person can't perceive it. But we must recognize that a blind man cannot see because there isn't enough light- but because he cannot see the light that is there. So the problem with a blind man is in his eye.

And that is true in the spiritual realm as well because you have all this Light, all this disclosure, all this Revelation, all this Truth coming from Jesus and from Creation itself and from the Scriptures - and yet it's completely useless and utterly worthless unless you can see it and comprehend it and understand it so you can appreciate it and value it- and spiritually blind people can't see. And once again- the problem is not in some defect or problem about the Light- but that their eyes are blind.

And that is exactly what the Lord is addressing here in this Parable. He is saying to these Jewish leaders- *"The reason you do not believe in me has nothing to do with some problem with the Light- because I am the Light- it's a question of your sight- your eyes are blind. My Light, My Truth, the proof of My Divinity is everywhere and it is*

self- evident- it isn't debatable, it cannot be denied, it cannot be refuted. All the miracles, all the eyewitnesses, all the signs, all the wonders, all the gifts of the Spirit, all the proof, all the evidence, all the preaching, all the forgiveness, all the healing, all the Power and Authority has been repeatedly and publicly demonstrated and yet you say I am of satan and you refuse to bow, you refuse to repent, and you refuse to trust in Me."

And what Jesus is saying here is that the rejection by the Jews of Him was not an indictment of Him- as though something was lacking or something as wrong with Jesus. No, their rejection of Jesus had to do with the fact that they were spiritually blind and could not see the Light that was all around them.

So the problem with the Jewish leaders was not a lack of evidence as they indicated. It isn't that they just needed another sign or one more piece of evidence or that they lacked some clarification of teaching or that they needed just a little more help theologically and that would allow them to believe in Jesus. No, the problem with these self-righteous hypocritical Jews was not a lack of light- because Jesus was standing right here before them. No, their problem was that they lived in darkness and their eyes were filled with darkness because their hearts were evil and they couldn't see the glorious Light of Jesus that was all around them.

So these guys didn't need more information- they needed to have their eyes open; they needed to have the darkness around their sight removed. Their minds were blinded to the Truth because of the hardness of their heart. That was the issue.

We must understand, dear friends- that the Light of Jesus is always completely unmistakable. Jesus has no lack of identification. Jesus is right there- in all His Glory- plain as day. So the problem with people as to why they don't believe in Jesus is not because Jesus hasn't done or said enough. No, their problem is in their eyes. And the problem of a lack of spiritual sight always has to do with the wickedness and the evil that is in the human heart. And until God sovereignly gives them sight- they *cannot* see- they *will not* see- even though Jesus is shining so brilliantly that it is breathtaking.

Now this is a perfect way to end the conversation with these Jewish scholars that's been going on since back in verse 14. Remember that all during the Ministry of Jesus- He all but banished illness from

Israel. His healings were massive and constant- from one end of that country to the other. Jesus healed people and He cast out demons and He raised the dead. So these were not just nice events in the lives of these people- these were unspeakable miracles, unexplainable supernatural manifestations of God's Grace and Mercy and Kindness and Goodness that left people speechless and that radically changed people's lives.

Jesus proved His full Deity over and over and over again by speaking to the wind and the waves and they obeyed Him. He walked on water, He raised the dead, He forgave sin, He controlled fish. Angels and well respected godly people and low class shepherds and God Himself testified as to Who Jesus was. His mother was a virgin and His birth fulfilled many Old Testament Prophecies- including the town he was born in and the genealogy of both of his parents.

And after having seen all of this- the Pharisees and scribes completely rejected it. They would not accept the fact that Jesus was God. And they refused to accept that fact- not because they lacked just one more miracle- but because Jesus rejected their religion. Jesus condemned their spirituality. God in human flesh told these people to their face that they were not worshipping Him and that they were phonies and hypocrites and self-righteous and lost. Immanuel told them in no uncertain terms that they were no closer to God than a prostitute and the more they continued on in their man-made religion- the further away from God they went.

And the result of God incarnate condemning all their ceremonies and all their rituals and all their animals sacrifices was not that they were broken and humbled themselves and repented- but they simply hardened their hearts all the more and they turned on Jesus and they hated Him and they sought to discredit Him and when that didn't work- they planned to kill Him.

So these religious leaders refused to recognize their own sin. They did not plead for Mercy and Grace- but thought they could earn their way to Heaven by their own religious works and their own human morality. And when Jesus indicted them- that was enough to turn them so bitterly against Jesus that no matter what He did- they refused to believe that He was who He was.

But they ha da problem because there had to be *some* explanation as to how Jesus did those things because here He was going everywhere

performing miracles and casting out demons and raising up dead people. And there could only be two possible, supernatural sources:

Jesus was doing all these things by the Power of God
Jesus was doing it by the power of Satan

And everybody on planet earth both then and now is in one of those two groups- everybody. Nobody is neutral toward Jesus. You either believe that he is God or you don't. And if Jesus was doing all this by the Power of God- then they had to worship and follow Him. And if Jesus was doing this by the power of satan- then they had to utterly reject and denounce Him and call for His execution. There was no middle ground then and there is no middle ground today. It was either completely of God or completely of satan.

And so unwilling to acknowledge that Jesus was doing all these miracles by the Power of God- which would mean they had to love and serve Him- these religious Jews were left with only one conclusion and so they took it with gusto and it became not only their official report about Jesus- but it also became the very source of their damnation:

Jesus was doing what He was doing by the power of satan- by Beelzebul.

And Jesus said that's absolutely ridiculous. *"Why would satan cast out satan? A kingdom divided against itself can't stand. That's irrational."* *"Furthermore"*, Jesus said, *"I must be exhibiting the Power of God, because what I do is infinitely stronger than the power of satan- because I'm casting satan out."* So Jesus showed the folly and the complete irrationality of their argument.

But that didn't change their minds at all. He did more miracles, did more teaching, more healings, more shattering into the kingdom of darkness with His power and sending demons fleeing out of people. And they still didn't believe. And so here He is- months later- down in Judea and in verse 14 He casts a demon out of a man who was mute and probably deaf, and when the demon is gone the man can speak and hear and the multitudes marveled. But some of them said He casts out demons by Beelzebul- the ruler of the demons. So Jesus doesn't represent the Power of God but the power of satan.

And so they were somewhat successful in their campaign against Jesus because this blasphemy took root in people and began to grow and spread. It started with the leaders but it seeped down into the grassroots. And others, verse 16 says began to taunt Jesus.

In other words, if You aren't from hell and from satan- then prove it. Which is to say we've already reached our conclusion because You haven't given us enough evidence. In other words, they're trying to say that we have come to the conclusion that You do what You do by the power of satan because that's the only reasonable conclusion- given all that You've done and all that we've seen.

So our unbelief is Your fault, Jesus. And to put it in the terms that we are looking at in our passage this morning- they were telling Jesus, You didn't give us enough Light.

Now remember, these Pharisees and scribes considered themselves the people of the ultimate spiritual Light. They were chosen- and they knew it; they had the Covenant- and they knew it. They had the Scriptures- and they knew it. So these men considered themselves to have the greatest spiritual perception. They considered themselves, according to Paul in Romans 2, to be light to the blind. They considered themselves to be the spiritual guides- the people who had the knowledge of the Law of God, the people who knew the true and living God, the people who knew the Will of God and the Way of God and the Word of God. And they themselves believed to be themselves to be a light to the blind.

And so the conclusion of the leaders and the people who followed these leaders is that we really don't have enough Light to conclude that You're from God. So if You want us to conclude other than what we've already concluded- that Jesus is evil and of satan- then You better do a sign that is distinctively from Heaven because- so far- we don't have enough Light. So that was what was going on here.

And if you drop down to verse 29, Jesus says this,

This generation is a wicked generation.

And we saw that last week. Why did Jesus call them wicked? Was it because they were immoral like our generation? No. Was it

because they were promoting abortion and homosexuality? No, these men were extremely religious. They were very dutiful in their religion, followed all of their traditional prescriptions of religion. So that blatant and outward wickedness wasn't the issue.

Their wickedness was not predicated upon some kind of immorality. But Jesus called them a "wicked generation" because they refused to see what God had already done and sought after another sign.

In other words- the profound indicator of their wickedness was that true Light was everywhere around them and they couldn't see it. That's how profound their darkness was. That's how profound their wickedness was. Light was everywhere and they couldn't see it. And they *couldn't* see it because they *wouldn't* see it. So they were to blame. The guilt was on them.

So it was never an issue that there wasn't enough Light. It was always an issue of their inability to see. And that is the problem today. People will say that they simply don't have enough information about Jesus and that is why they refuse to repent and believe and obey Him. And if they just had one more piece of information- that would cinch the deal and they would immediately repent and trust in Jesus. No they won't. Jesus Himself said

Luke 16:31

... If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead."

So what many in the Full Gospel Church teach is just simply not true. They teach that if we Christians would just get out from the four walls of the Church and go into the streets and perform signs and wonders and miracles and heal the sick and raise the dead and cast out demons- then people would see the Power of God and then they would believe and be saved.

And that sounds great. And I used to believe that and I went out and we did try to do all of that. And yet *nobody* repented and *nobody* turned from their sins and nobody was saved. And that is because it isn't a lack of light that is keeping people lost- it is the fact that they cannot see with their dark eyes. So the problem is not solved by giving

them more light- the problem cannot be solved unless and until God sovereignly opens their eyes so they can see.

And it really isn't a lack of faith either because *nobody* has enough faith. Faith isn't something that lost people already possess and they just have to learn how to energize it or release it or build it up. That isn't taught anywhere in the Bible. No the Bible says that faith comes by hearing the message about Jesus Christ- and that is what I do believe we should do.

We need to go from these four walls- out into the street and simply preach the Gospel. Because there is plenty of Light- there is 66 Books of light and there are millions and tens of millions and hundreds of millions of believers- who live in every country on earth, and there are libraries of books about Jesus and there are endless testimonies and numerous glorious events.

And yet they will tell you that they need still more light, more information, more proof. So the issue is their sight and not a lack of light. There is plenty of Light- but their eyes can't see.

And so Jesus concludes this discussion in verses 33 to 36 by talking about the difference between His Light and their sight. They were wicked because they were laying the responsibility for their unbelief at the feet of Jesus and simply saying, *"You didn't make Your point clear enough. We don't have enough light. We came to the conclusion we came to because that's all the information You gave us. So You left us in the dark."*

But that wasn't really the issue at all. They were *willfully* blind because they hated His Message. They hated the indictment of their sin and hypocrisy and false religion and self-righteousness. They hated the idea that He called on them to acknowledge themselves as being poor prisoners blind and oppressed, sinners under the judgment of God headed for eternal Punishment- who needed to repent and be saved. So they hated that message. And so it destroyed their ability to see the truth. And this is a concept that Theologians call, "Moral Inability" and I want you to turn with me to an Old Testament Passage and look at how this works. **Genesis 37:3&4**

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic.

4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and

so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

Notice what the end of verse 4 says. It says that the brothers of Joseph:

... could not speak to him on friendly terms.

They “**could not**”. Now this has nothing to do with permission- this is ability. So they didn’t have the ability or the power to speak to Joseph on friendly terms. Well, why couldn’t they speak to their own brother on friendly terms? Was there something in their mouth? Did they have a speech impediment? Were they unable to speak at all? No, there was no physical problem in the mouth of the brothers- but there was something very dark in their hearts. They could not love because they hated.

His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him...

So the hate in their hearts made them to be *unable* to love. So how this works is that they *could not* love because they *would not* love. And this is Moral Inability. And every human being born of woman is just like this toward God in their lost and fallen condition unless and until God the Holy Spirit sovereignly changes them by giving them a new heart. And the giving of this new heart is called, “Regeneration” or being born again.

So until a lost person has been sovereignly born again by the Spirit of God- he *cannot* love God because he *will not* love God. The natural and normal hostility against God that is inherent in his fallen nature will not *allow* him to ever voluntarily choose to love and serve God gladly until it is overridden by the miracle of the New Birth.

So lost people cannot love God because they will not love God. They *cannot* hear because they *will not* hear, they *cannot* believe because they *will not* believe, they *cannot* repent because they *will not* repent, and they *cannot* see because they *will not* see. And therefore- even though they are unable- they are fully to blame- the guilt is theirs and God is correct to damn them when they do not repent.

You remember back in **Luke 4** when Jesus went to His own synagogue and preached one sermon and told those self-righteous people- many of whom were His Own relatives- in His own home town that He had grown up with and Jesus told them that they were not who they thought they were. They thought they were the chosen people of God but Jesus said they were just as lost as the pagan Gentiles. Jesus said they were not right with God. Jesus said they were alienated from God. Jesus said they were poor prisoners, blind and oppressed, who needed to be saved, who needed to repent. And their response was to try to throw Jesus off a cliff to kill Him after just one sermon. So they were spiritually blind because they were willfully evil.

So the answer for people who are willfully evil is not more light- it is the gracious and merciful and miraculous removal of their blindness. It is the sovereign giving of sight, it is the opening of their eyes- and that is only done by a sovereign miracle of God the Holy Spirit in the New Birth to all those who will be saved. **John 3:19-21** says this:

19 This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

So a lost person doesn't just sin- the Bible says he *loves* his sin. All lost people love their spiritual blindness. They love to live and operate in the dark. Lost people find pleasure and gladness and fulfillment and joy in darkness. Which is why they get angry at Righteousness and the preaching of the Gospel. And Jesus says that 100% of the time- their lack of being able to see is not because of a lack of Light- it is because their eye can't see.

And God has willed that there is only one way- one single means by which the blind eyes of lost people are sovereignly and miraculously given sight and that is through the preaching of the Gospel- not through miracles, not through signs and wonders, and not through the demonstration of gifts of the Holy Spirit. But through the foolishness of the Message preached.

So let's look at **Luke 11:33-36** and just kind of divide them out a little bit.

Luke 11:33

No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.

Now the word, "basket" has to do with an eight-quart basket that was used to carry things. So no one puts a lamp down in a cellar or under a basket- but on a lampstand." So back in the 1st Century- they had these little oil lamps and they filled them with oil and put a wick in them and lit them and put them up on a lampstand to get them up to eye level to light the room.

And it doesn't take a genius to figure out exactly what He means. You light a light so people can see. You light a light so that things can be revealed.

And the point is this, Why would Jesus hold back any evidence? Nobody is going to go to this length and go through all of this and then come up short of revealing everything that needs to be revealed. Certainly God isn't going to do that.

So Light was everywhere. In that era, in those three years of Jesus' ministry, they were flooded with light. It's not an issue of light. Jesus made everything clear that needed to be made clear about sin and about repentance and about faith and about salvation and about grace. But men love darkness rather than light because they cherish their sins- even their sins of self-righteous pride.

So we go from the presence of light to a second point: the problem of sight, the problem of sight. Verse 34, here's the real issue:

Luke 11:34

The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.

... and this is the real issue.

It's not about light- it's about sight. And seeing depends on the condition of the eye. The lamp of your body is your eye. This is obvious. Your eye is not the light- your eye is simply the vehicle that delivers the light to your mind and therefore makes everything clear to you. I see with my eye. But my eye is not the light. My eye is the entrance of that

light; it's the organ by which that light enters my mind and my mind comprehends the light and all that the light reveals. And that's how you see.

And when your eye is clear- your whole body is full of light because you can see. It's the only organ channeling light to the mind. But when the eye is bad- then there is no sight and therefore the entire body is full of darkness because no light can enter. And Jesus is simply saying this is obvious. It's not about light, light is everywhere, but blind people can't see it.

So the only people who see the light and perceive what it reveals are people who have clear eyes. Our eyes then give us the full benefit of all that the light reveals. The whole world is open to us and all that is lit up for us to behold if we can see. But Jesus is simply saying the problem is not light because there is light everywhere.

John 1:9

There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

So the Light of Christ is extended to the ends of the earth. So being lost is not about the lack of Revelation- it's about the lack of perception. And the lamp of the soul is the mind. The eye of the soul is the heart. And your heart and mind is blind if you cherish your sin. You stay in a state of blindness. It may be that you cherish immorality and you cherish wickedness and vile kind of conduct, but in the case of these people- they cherished their self-righteous hypocrisy and their religion and their self-styled morality.

They denied the basic principle of all that the Bible teaches that men are lost sinners and can't do anything about it and are headed for eternal judgment and all we can do is to repent and beg God to forgive us. And yet men refuse to do that until God gives them sight. And as they refuse to repent- they will blame God as to why they don't.

Now the word "clear" (*haplous* in the Greek) is a word that means: single or holding nothing back. It's sometimes translated "generous" or "big". So when your eye is wide open; when it's big- then you can see everything. On the other hand, when it's bad (and it actually uses the word *evil*), when your eye is bad or evil- that is to say- when it's clouded by sin and covered by the evil of the heart- then you are full of

darkness. So it's sin and the cherishing of sin and the holding on to sin that makes you blind. And therefore you are to blame.

And the only way you're ever going to see the light, ever going to see the light, is to repent and be willing to abandon sin. And the only way you are going to repent and believe is for God to be gracious to you to give you both the desire and the ability to do that. The light of the glory of God shining in the face of Jesus Christ was completely obscured to these people. Although the Light was everywhere, it was like the sun at noon day- blazing, blinding Light, but they had no eyes to see because their eyes were completely covered with sin.

And this leads Jesus to make a third point. From the presence of light to the problem of sight; He then moves to the pretense of sight, the pretense of sight. This is amazing, verse 35. He says,

Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness.

So Jesus knew what their response was going to be: What are You talking about that we're blind? What are You talking about? They saw themselves as the most sighted of all. They saw themselves as the ones who understood all truth. And He says, *"You better watch out"* (*skopeo* in the Greek); *scope it out; pay attention to it; be concerned about it*. The light in you may in fact be- darkness.

And the lost world is full of these people. Every time you hear some Eastern mystic announce that he has reached "enlightenment", you can be sure that the light that he thinks is in him is actually- great and profound darkness. Every time you hear some liberal theologian deny some truth of Scripture because he says he's come to some profound revelation and so he's been lifted above all the errors of the Bible- in reality- he has entered into great and profound darkness. Every false religion, every form of heresy, every system in the world that sets itself apart from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ- no matter how old it is and no matter how many people follow after it- is nothing but another form of terrible darkness.

But the sad reality of it is the people think it's light. There are people who think Jewish Cabala is light- but it's awful darkness. There are people who think that Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses have the light- but those teachings are just more darkness. And Jesus is

saying to these Jewish leaders, *"You better be careful, you better watch out that the light you think is in you is not in fact darkness."*

And this is so hard to deal with. When a person thinks they have the light, they come to a very dangerous place. This is why Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. That's his great deception, to make people think they found the light when in fact it's the darkness. Listen to the words of Paul,

Romans 1:21&22

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

"Professing to be wise they became fools" (*morons* in the Greek). Their heart was darkened because they are filled with evil and amazingly- they congratulate themselves on their wisdom. So God says that they're "fools" or "morons". And this is the worst darkness of all. This is the deception that makes the sinner think that darkness is light. All unconverted sinners are in the darkness without any exception. But it seems to me that most of them think they're in the light, particularly in those false religions. And that's why Jesus says you better take another look, watch out, you better look again. What you think is light is darkness.

Now listen to what Jesus told these people in **Matthew 13:13-15:**

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

And that judgment that came out of **Isaiah 6** was originally a

judgment on Israel- back in Isaiah's time. And God said, *"You've gone too far and you're not going to see and you're not going to hear, and you're not going to understand, and you're not going to turn, and you're not going to be healed because I'm not going to let it happen."* What started out as a willful rejection of the truth in Isaiah's day became a judgment of God, confirming them in their unbelief. And it's stark and frightening. In **Isaiah 29:10** God says:

For the LORD has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, the seers.

And in **Isaiah 44:18** it says:

They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend.

What a frightening judgment! And by the way, that judicial hardening, that judicial blindness, judicial deafness is repeated again all through the New Covenant- **Mark 4, Luke 8, John 12, The Acts 28, Romans 10, Romans 11**. All of them go back to that same Isaiah passage to explain how that if someone goes far enough in willfully not seeing and hearing- God locks them in that condition as a judgment.

So Jesus here is then warning us and saying, *"Watch out! Watch out that your willful blindness doesn't become judicial blindness, that because you will not see you cannot see. So watch out!"*

Don't ever interpret darkness as if it were light. Don't ever embrace evil. Don't ever call, "Evil" "Good". Don't ever laugh at someone who is blaspheming God. Don't ever embrace the darkness as though it were Light. Turn quickly to **2Corinthians 6:14-18**:

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

17 "Therefore, *COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE*," says the Lord. "*AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN*; And I will welcome you.

18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

And then a final point Jesus makes, back to **Luke 11:36:**

If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."

Now the language here is limitless. The language here is expansive. Notice how expansive it is. "For those whose eyes are clear"-- for those who will turn from the sin that blinds, for those who will honestly ask God to open their eyes the gift of sight opens up limitless vistas. Look at the expansive character of this language. Your whole body is full of light.

The word "whole," the word "full," and then on the negative, "no dark part in it," and then "wholly illumined." Do you think He's trying to get something across here? So we must understand that when you are saved- you don't get just a little bit of light so you're able to see just enough to barely get into heaven. Not at all.

No, becoming a believer and having your spiritual eyes opened opens limitless vision to you so that you can now see Jesus in all His Glory and understand the Word of God because God the Holy Spirit opens it up to us and the Word becomes a lamp to our feet and a light to our path and it exposes and reveals everything to us. And so we go from total blindness to total sight. We go from total blindness to spiritually having 20/20 vision.

And that's why Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world, whoever follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."** We're even called children of light. We've been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. We are sons of light. We walk in the light. All of these expressions used by the New Testament Epistle writers. The Day Star has dawned in our hearts and we live in the light. **1Peter 2:9** says:

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

So what happens when you come to Christ? What happens when you repent and the darkness disappears? You get all the Light unlimited so that you become a son of Light. So now you are characterized by the Light of God.

And I think it's so important to say this to people, that becoming a Christian doesn't take you into some sort of minimalistic experience with God. No, you don't just see better- you come out of total blindness into total light and everything is revealed to you by the Spirit through the Word. And as Jesus is the Light of the Word- we are now the light that reflects that Light and so as far as the world knows- what they see in us and how we live and what we believe and how we raise our families and how we conduct our lives and how we spend our money and what we watch and what we feed on and what we preach determines what they understand about Jesus.

So as we have received the Light- we are to shine His Light to this dark world so that Christ may be all in all!

Let's pray.

© 2008- 2013 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1996 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse study of **The Gospel According to Luke**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.