

Fighting in the Lord's Army; Those that Defect: Betrayal by Clergy; the Lord & Paul Identify Them with the Dark Side, Jn 12:35-36; Eph 5:6-8; 1 Thess 5:1-11

16. The person who has believed in Christ has, knowingly or unknowingly, stepped across the proverbial line in the sand. Faith in Christ puts a person into the Lord's army. There are always those who betray Him by treacherous complicity with the forces of Darkness, but they are never disowned although some are decommissioned by the sin unto death.
17. It is the machinations of believers who have given aid and comfort to the enemy that John addresses in verse 6. He puts them in the environment of darkness although they are "children of the light."
18. The means by which one enters into the light is by faith alone in Christ alone. It is not my calling to mollycoddle those who claim the mantle of Christianity but who are in league with the lie. I have chosen to do battle without slack against those theologies and the spokesmen they spawn that present humanistic ideas about the plan of God and offer fuzzy Gospels regarding how a person is saved. Scripture clearly reveals that the only way by which a person enters heaven when he dies is through faith in Christ and this grace provision is available to anyone who believes in Him. To some degree, all mainline Protestant denominations have pastors that have betrayed this Gospel and thus lead unsuspecting legions into eternal judgment. They have dropped the gauntlet and I have picked it up in open and prolonged rebuttal of their heresy. They use the Lord's name to attract the large numbers required to collect the mammon necessary to support their ill-founded ideas about what a church is for. The Bible has no stipulated function for the local church but for the communication of the Word of God. Mega churches wrap their bilge in the frill and fluff of a Christian facade that begs to be exposed and stripped naked.
19. Those who inhabit these synagogues of Satan are those whom the Lord said were blinded by darkness in:

John 12:35 - "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

v. 36 - "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

20. The Lord is addressing curious Gentiles who although God conscious rejected Him as Savior but were attracted to His miraculous powers. They were encouraged by the Lord to "believe in the Light"—the Gospel—"so you may become sons of Light"—for the purpose of deliverance from the lake of fire with the result of receiving eternal life.
21. Paul warns the believers at Ephesus to not be deceived by the false doctrines and behaviors popular in the city that lured believers into reversion and in so doing into a lifestyle common to the Dark Side. Today this and its opposite, the smiley-faced colportage of the Christian huckster, should heed the warning found in:

Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one deceive you by means of empty words [elegant phrases that tempt the lust patterns whether lascivious or ascetic] for because of these things [false doctrines] the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of unbelief.

v. 7 - Therefore stop being partners with them;

v. 8 - for you were formerly darkness [in unbelief] but now light in the Lord. Keep on walking as children of the light [in wheel-tracks of righteousness].

22. As children of the light we are delivered from the coming darkness that will precede the Lord's Second Advent. The dispensations of the Church and Tribulation are characterized by light and darkness in:

1 Thessalonians 5:1 - But of the times [the program of the dispensations] and the seasons [the individual dispensations] you have no need that I write to you.

v. 2 - For you already know [due to the fact Paul had taught them] that the day of the Lord [the rapture of the Church] will come like a thief in the night [doctrine of imminency].

v. 3 - For when they shall say, "Peace [the mere absence of warfare] and safety [the false security of human arrangements]!" then shall come sudden destruction upon them like the suddenness of a woman's labor pangs [the aftermath of the church being withdrawn from Battlefield Earth setting the stage for the Tribulation]. They will not escape [the horrors of the coming worldwide cataclysmic events].

v. 4 - But you, believers, are not in darkness [since believers are in the light of the Church Age and its doctrines, they will avoid the darkness of the Tribulation], that the day [the rapture] would overtake you like a thief;

v. 5 - for you are all children of the light [believers] and children of the day [Church Age]. We are not of night [the coming dispensation of the Tribulation] nor of darkness [the cosmic system].

v. 6 - Therefore, let us not sleep [doctrinally ignorant and thus influenced by the Dark Side] as do the rest, but let us watch and be sober [live before the Lord as if the rapture were to occur tomorrow and be clear minded through doctrine as if it would not occur in your lifetime].

v. 7 - For those who sleep, sleep at night [in the darkness of ignorance and thus unprepared], and those who get drunk are drunk at night [disorientation to what's going on around them].

v. 8 - But let us, who are of the day [Church Age], keep on being sober [doctrinally alert], putting on the breastplate of faith [faith-rest technique] and love [virtue love], and for a helmet the confidence of deliverance [from the Tribulation].

v. 9 - For God has not appointed us for wrath [of the Tribulation], but to deliverance [from the Tribulation] through our Lord Jesus Christ.

v. 10 - Who having died for us—whether awake or asleep [3d class condition: in status quo spirituality or carnality]—we should live together with Him.

v. 11 - Therefore, believers, comfort one another and keep on building up one another, just as you are already doing [Christian fellowship based on doctrinal orientation and fellowship with God].