



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The Gospel Corner



A Light Shining in a Dark Place

Notes of a sermon preached by Rev. Ivan Foster in Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts," 2 Peter 1:19.

The possessor of the Bible is more privileged than those who witnessed the Saviour's transfiguration on the mount. So said Peter, one of those who witnessed that glorious event. The Word of God provides "a more sure word of prophecy." He explains this in verses 20-21. The Word of God comes to us with divine authority stamped upon it. It did not emerge from the thinking processes of those who wrote it, but from the mind of God. The Scriptures being the Word of God, none but He can interpret them. It is not something that we can form a private interpretation of. As holy men spake it, so holiness of heart and mind is required if we would understand it. I wish to consider with you the glorious title given to the Word of God in this verse. It is a "light that shineth in a dark place." There is much gospel truth in this title.

I. GOD'S WORD IS A SHINING LIGHT.

This is a familiar title for God's Word. Ps 119:105; Pro 6:23.

The word shineth means to be clearly seen. Matt 1:20, 2:7, 24:27, 30.

Its light is a revelation of Jesus Christ. "I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed," Psalm 132:17. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me," John 5:39. Through the Scriptures the Father says of Christ: "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth," Isaiah 42:1. All that we may know of God is through His Son and we may only learn about the Son from the Holy Scriptures. His nature, His work, His objectives, His method of working, His will — these may only be entered upon through the Word of God. Here is why the Bible is so attacked. It is the only chart through the troubled seas of this sinful world. Throw it away and you are lost without hope.

II. THIS LIGHT HAS BEEN SET UP IN A DARK PLACE.

We may see the first flickering flame as it was lit by God's hand in Gen 3:15. Its light intensifies throughout the Old and New Testaments.

This world is a dark place. "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble," Proverbs 4:19; Eph 5:8.

Consequently it is a dangerous place. Men are walking on the brink of hell and know it not. Blind men led by blind men!



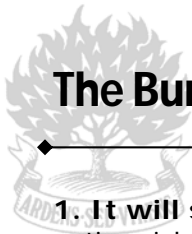
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It is a deceived place. As there is only one sun so there is only one source of true light. This darkened world is filled with myths and fancies and nonsensical imaginations. The notions of the jungle-dweller may appear ludicrous to the European but in the light of God's truth, the thinking of the modernist and the evolutionist is no more rational. Rom 1:21; Eph

4:17.

4. It is a damned place. The darkness that is upon the world is the same darkness that enshrouds hell. The ungodly are as "raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever," Jude 13. The only light this world has is the gospel. "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness," John 12:46. How few take heed to its welcome light and instead drive for the rocks of perdition!

III. THIS LIGHT WILL SHINE UNTIL THE DAWN OF GOD'S DAY.



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1. It will shine despite the devil's attacks. Victory over every attempt of the devil to extinguish the light is thus assured.

It will shine until the elect are gathered in. It will shine where God directs it. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ," 2 Corinthians 4:6.

It will shine where God appoints it. He will set it up where it pleases Him and appoint those who are to hold it aloft.

Wherever it shines blessing shall flourish. Pleasantness, peace, joy and industry flourish under this light. "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son," Colossians 1:13. This is what the light of the gospel does. Are you walking in that light?