

for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

Ephesians 5:8

Store In My Heart Nahum 1:1

An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

About a century after Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, they had returned to oppressing other nations. Nineveh had destroyed The Northern Kingdom of Israel and had begun to once again think they were more important than they really were.

Nahum pronounces God's vengeance against Nineveh and His Sovereign Rule in the kingdoms of men in this writing. Much of what is written points to the rejoicing of Judah when Nineveh was punished by God.

Though Nahum shows Jonah was correct in his assessment of the Ninevites, it is never the place of man to question God. We cannot know God's plan beyond what He has revealed. His Word should be our guide. Planting the Seed is the task we have been given. What others do with it we cannot control.



How's Your Night Vision?

Daniel Smith

One afternoon while I was playing a video game, I saw an item that stuck out to me: an in-game guidebook with the description, "A guiding light to those who seek knowledge; a blinding light to those who refuse it." As Christians, we are called to be the *"light of the world,"* (**Matthew 5:14**) but light can hinder sight just as much as it reveals things. We should be seeking to guide, but at times, it will be unavoidable that we blind those who are not interested in coming into the light.

Why does Christ's light so often blind, and few use it as the guide it was meant to be? If you have ever done overnight camping, you probably have some idea of night vision. Your eyes slowly adjust to the darkness, and after about 30 minutes, you can see pretty well. If someone turns on a flashlight, it seems so much brighter than usual, making everyone flinch, because your eyes are wide-open to the world around you and not expecting to see light. Similarly, Christ's light blinds so many, because they have adjusted their eyes to see only darkness.

Jesus says in **Matthew 13:13**, *"This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."* He then references **Isaiah 6:9-10**, saying in **verse 15**, *"For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed."* Usually, when you have been in the dark for a while, you stay away from light and get annoyed with people who shine lights in your direction. There were many during the days Jesus was on earth, who were blinded by their own self-righteousness and didn't want to be told they could be wrong, just as there are many today who believe they are right. **Proverbs 14:12** says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."*

In **2Corinthians 4:3-4** we can read more about light-blindness. *"Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Jesus Christ, who is the image of God."* When you finally adjust to the darkness and gain night vision, you will literally close your eyes to any bright light, just as *"those who are perishing"* have blinded their minds to Jesus' light.

Sometimes, though, you need the light to find something important, and that causes you to lose your night vision while trying to find what you need. Many people turn to God in moments of panic when everything they have tried to do their own way hasn't helped. When a sinner comes to Christ to cleanse his sins, he cannot return to worldly living, just as a camper who finds what he's looking for when using a flashlight can't see in the dark anymore once that light is turned off. It would make no sense to stumble around in a dark campsite knowing you could just turn on a light to see clearly where you're going.

In **2Peter chapter 1**, there is instruction for those who want to live a Christian life. **Verses 5 through 7** are very familiar (add to your knowledge, self-control, etc.) Then, **2Peter 1:9** says, *"For whoever lacks these qualities [the list in verses 5-7] is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins."* Likewise, **1John 1:5-7** says, *"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."*

Once you see Jesus' light and begin walking the way He wants you to walk, you cannot reasonably go back to living in darkness. This change is seen in the life of Saul. When he was on the road to Damascus in **Acts 9**, he was struck blind by a light from heaven. He regained his sight after three days, and he was transformed from a ravager of the church to "Paul," one of the most influential men of Christianity.

We need to shine our lights, no matter who we blind. Jesus said, *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* (**Matthew 5:14-16**)

If I shine a light to see what I'm doing while camping, others might stay stubborn for a bit doing everything in the dark, but eventually they will realize they can't see, and they'll get their own flashlight out. Similarly, if we shine our lights in the world, there are those we blind, but our blinding light will turn to a guiding light for those who accept it. Those who are in the dark need to come to the light, and those who are in the light need to stay there.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Stanley Hurst is doing well with physical therapy and will see the surgery doctor this week.

Sue Soliday is still sore and bruised from her fall.

Vickie McNees found some success with the arthritis doctor with shots for pain and steroids. Going back in just over a week.

Leta Rivera is on oxygen for her breathing and is still dizzy.

John LaValla is still having some nausea.

Bill Venable is out-of-town visiting with Tina.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 29:9** Wednesday – **Singing Gospel Meeting - Zach Redmon - Starts Sunday**