

A family silhouette consisting of a woman, a man, and two children stands in front of a large, glowing cross. The background is a textured, golden-yellow wall. The family is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the cross centered behind them.

Living as Light

Matthew 5:14-16

Overcoming The Sight That Is Blind

A King's Dark Heart & A Prophet's Painful Enlightenment

***David had the sight that was blind!
He could see the sin of others...
But was blind to see the sin that was his!***

Nathan Confronts King David About His Sight That Is Blind

2Sa 12:1 The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. 4 "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him." 5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." 7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' 11 "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'" 13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. 14 But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die." (2 Samuel 12:1-14, NIV)

David witnessed the Terror of Darkness & the Terror of Light

- ***If there is a terror about darkness because we cannot see, there is also a terror about light because we can see. There is a terror about light because much of what we see in the light about ourselves and our world we would rather not see, would rather not have be seen.*** — Frederick Buechner, U. S. writer and preacher (1926–); Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark* (HarperOne, 1985), p. 50
- **This is especially true if one is a member of the body of Christ, yet overtaken in a sin unknown to the congregation of the Lord**
- **Distraction from self or redirection to the sins of another in order to save oneself from too close an examination of one's own sins...**
- **This is what King David did when confronted by the Prophet Nathan...**

The True Light of the Gospel is not Prejudiced nor does it show favoritism...

The light that exposes the darkness in the lives of others, is the same light that exposes the darkness in our own lives.

Paul to the church in Ephesus said, “*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’ 15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:8-16, NIV)*

“Be separate from sinners. Come out from among the pagan. Do not mingle with their abominations; do not name them. You are the children of light; and God says to you, awake from false security, rouse from the death of sin, and Christ shall enlighten you.” – Albert Barnes

Redirecting to “*big sins*” ...

- The “*Sight That Is Blind*” sees:
 - The sexually immoral
 - The idolaters
 - The adulterers
 - The male prostitutes
 - The homosexual offenders
 - The drunkards
 - The Swindlers
- 
- The background of the slide features a warm, golden-yellow light source, possibly a window or a lamp, creating a strong glow. In the center, there are several dark silhouettes of people walking away from the viewer. One person is in the foreground, slightly to the right, and another is further back, slightly to the left. The overall atmosphere is one of a dimly lit, perhaps institutional or public, space.

We can easily quote...

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, NIV

The “*Sight that is Blind*” often CAN NOT see these sins or the damage they inflict upon the church:

- **Cowardly**
- **Complaining**
- **Gossiping**
- **Showing Favoritism**
- **Not serving others**
- **Not having a thankful attitude**
- **Not sharing one’s faith**

God has WARNING SIGNS for those who engage such

~~Slightly More Accepted~~ Sins of Darkness

- Controversial Subjects
- Complaining
- Gossiping
- Showing Favoritism
- Not serving others
- Not having a thankful attitude
- Not sharing one's faith
- Watching/listening impure
- Course joking
- Pride
- 2 Timothy 2:23-26; Titus 3:9
- Num. 11:1; Philippians 2:14-15
- Proverbs 16:28; 2 Cor. 12:20
- Rom. 2:11; James 2:1, 9
- Gal. 5:13; Jam 2:14, 26
- 2 Tim. 3:1-7 (KJV); Col 2:6-7; Philippians 4:5-7
- Luke 9:26; 2 Timothy 1:7-10
- Psalm 101:3
- Ephesians 5:4
- Proverbs 8:13

**WRONG
WAY**



*You will get hurt!
So please...*



But the “Truth” Sees & the “Truth” Warns

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” (John, Revelation 21:8, NIV)

Revelation 21:8, NIV

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Overcoming The Sight That Is Blind

John McCain & A Message of Light

During the 2008 presidential race, John McCain was asked by Time magazine to share his "personal journey of faith." In his article McCain shared a powerful story of something that occurred while he was a prisoner of war in Vietnam:

John McCain & A Message of Light (continued)

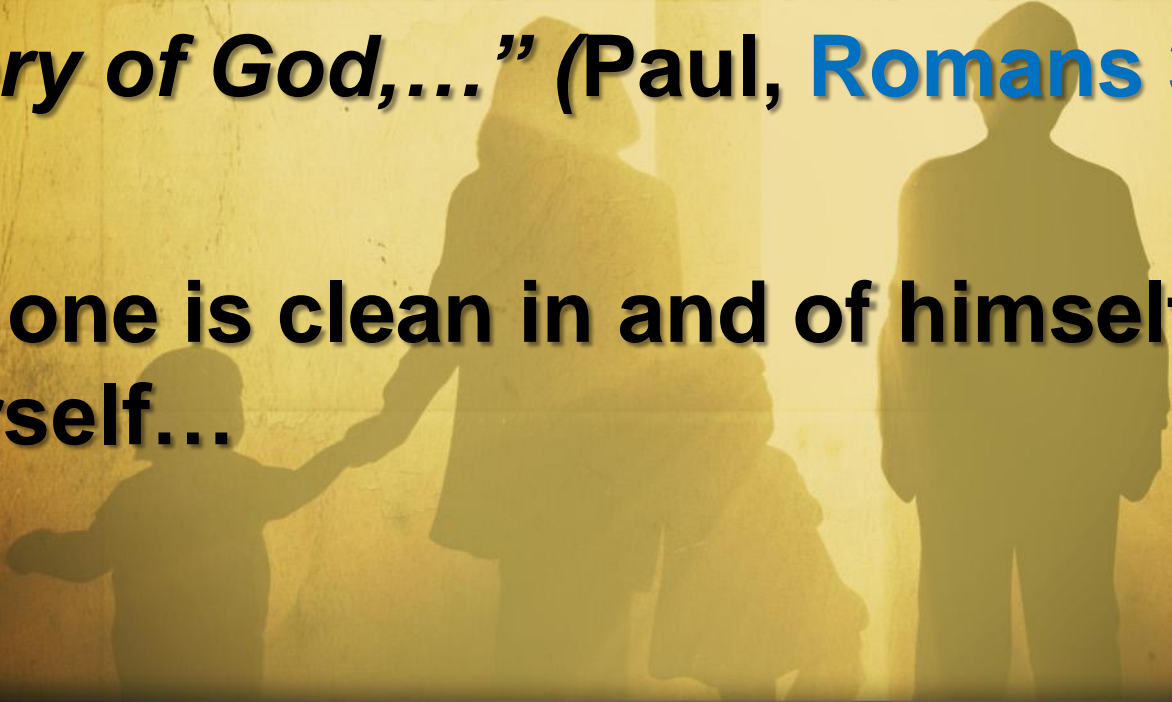
“When I was a prisoner of war in Vietnam...my captors would tie my arms behind my back and then loop the rope around my neck and ankles so that my head was pulled down between my knees. I was often left like that throughout the night. One night a guard came into my cell. He put his finger to his lips signaling for me to be quiet and then loosened my ropes to relieve my pain. The next morning, when his shift ended, the guard returned and retightened the ropes, never saying a word to me. A month or so later, on Christmas Day, I was standing in the dirt courtyard when I saw that same guard approach me. He walked up and stood silently next to me, not looking or smiling at me. Then he used his sandaled foot to draw a cross in the dirt. We stood wordlessly looking at the cross, remembering the true light of Christmas, even in the darkness of a Vietnamese prison camp.”

John McCain, "A Light amid the Darkness," Time magazine (8-18-08), p. 40; submitted by Kevin Miller, executive vice president, Christianity Today International

**We all are , or have been,
“*prisoners of Satan*” ...**

**“...for all have sinned and fall short of the
glory of God,...” (Paul, **Romans 3:23, NIV**)**

**No one is clean in and of himself or
herself...**

A silhouette of a family walking away from the viewer. On the left, a small child holds the hand of a woman in the center. To the right of the woman is a man. The background is a warm, golden light that fades into a darker yellow at the bottom.

Romans 3:23, NIV

...except for this one thing, the Light of the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ...

*“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 **If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.** 7 **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, purifies us from all sin...9 **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (John, the Apostle of Love, **1 John 1:3-7,9, NIV**)*

1 John 1:3-7,9, NIV

**Only in Jesus do we find the cure
from the “*Sight that is Blind*”!**

Only in Jesus are we free to see!

Jesus spoke to the people saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12, NIV



Jesus is curing us from *the Sight that is Blind*

**We are Leaving the Darkness
& Living the Light**