

## ***The Light Has Come into the World***

*“Now this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness rather than the light. Why? Because their actions were wicked. For everyone who does evil things hates the light and avoids it, so that his actions won't be exposed. But everyone who does what is true comes to the light, so that all may see that his actions are accomplished through God.” (John 3:19-21)*

The hardest people to win to the Messiah are the “religious,” the self-righteous, the “educated,” and the thoughtful, intelligent, highly moral person who has been doing his utmost to lead a “godly” life. The sinners and publicans came to Messiah, while the religious establishment rejected Him. The Gentiles came to the preaching of *Rabbi Sha'ul*, but the *Yehudim* rejected it. The *Gerim* come knowing they are but “sojourners” and “guests,” but the chosen have no interest. Some of the most learned people I know seem to “do good unto all” but show no evidence of a soul that cries unto the Almighty.

The devil knows that a half-truth can so easily satisfy the natural mind. While a lie is a blatant contradiction a half-truth suggests truth and appears to be in the side of truth. It grants so much that the unwary may well imagine it grants everything. There is a proverb that states: “*A little learning is a dangerous thing.*” The danger is that the one who possesses it imagines that he knows a lot and therefore becomes un-teachable.

The publicans and sinners did not argue, they just dropped at *Yeshua's* feet and worshipped Him. The good and learned people disagreed with Him and eventually participated in his crucifixion. You can carefully note that they did not entirely disagree with Him, they seemed to argue minutia. They did not expect the *Messiah* to come in this way. They would not have been so infuriated with Him had they not been expecting a *Messiah*. You have to have ideas before you can hold wrong ideas; the man who has no ideas is at least free from the charge of wrong and false ideas.

The greatest gains in Messianic Judaism seem to be among Latin people, the descendants of the “Marranos” and the evangelicals. The greatest loss to Judaism is among the Jews themselves, among those who were Bar/Bat Mitzvah and whose parents attend a synagogue often. When it comes to criticism, it is not from the dissolute and immoral and the *Goyim*, it comes from the good, moral, idealist, and philanthropist. The same conditions existed in Luke, Mark, etc. The believer & the humanitarian agree at the beginning, but from then on, forget it. Both parties recognize there is something wrong with the world and with mankind; both agree that misery, ugliness, and suffering are a disgrace to civilization. They agree life is meant to be noble, happy, lofty, and that sin, squalor, filth, and wretchedness are things that should shame us. But greed, power, lust, trickery, dishonesty abound and frustrate both camps. “*No war and no teenage pregnancy*” were in the platforms of the Obama and the Romney camps. They agreed that something was wrong, but disagreed vehemently as to what exactly was wrong and how to fix it. In our society we have a raging battle between the ‘wisdom of God’ vs. ‘the wisdom of this world.’ Maybe this is what keeps some people away from believing in Messiah *Yeshua*.

## **The Myth of Intellect and Knowledge**

The Pharisees thought they knew all about the Messiah. But when the oral traditions overrode the *Torah* and *Nev'im* catastrophe resulted. Our text says “*the light has come into the world*” already, no need to look for another.

In today's world people continue to look to the future, the MAÑANA generation is here. The world thinks of itself as being like pioneers and explorers facing some territory that is uncharted and unexplored. They regard the entire past of human history as being in darkness and ignorant, full of superstitions and irrational fears. They regard man as painfully developed from an animal – ‘our past is that of animals,’ they say. But now man is really beginning to evolve into a “higher and higher” species. This is the golden age of enlightenment in man. ‘This is it’; they say. Look forward, forget the past. Things are bad, but we are moving forward. What? *Yeshua*? ‘You've got to be kidding me’; they say. What light are you talking about? We just last year discovered how to cure cancer! This century is the century of light, not 2,000 years ago!

What about us? Is there a greater achievement than becoming as He was? Is the Wisdom from God not our goal? What greater light and hope upon our sin problem than how to overcome the temptations that beset us from without and within! Can't we not now have access to His power, His spirit, and His baptism? We can, in Him, face death and eternity and look forward to the resurrection and to live with Him forever. Is this not significant? Look at Him, consider your ways, run to his feet and receive Him in full...

### **The Myth About Sin not being Positively Evil.**

Our society's ideas of sin and evil are often superficial and unreal. They explain evil and wrongdoing as things that are negative and passive, as if it were the absence of good and right. A bad man is one who is not good. WRONG! It is just ignorance, people say; *'the beautiful parts of his nature have not yet begun to function and to play their part.'* "People," they say, *"just need education and enlightenment. The whole problem is one of education, it is an intellectual problem and not a moral problem."* It is not surprising that such a view of sin would prove acceptable to people and commend itself to them. How nice and consoling it is! We do not need to be born again we just need slight adjustments! The Bible paints quite a different picture. To believe this modern picture of man denies even the existence of our very own conscience and its final result is one of destroying human responsibility. With this theory the drunkard, the wife-beater, the thief, and malicious gossip is not sin, JUST IGNORANCE! I wish that their explanation were right – that I am not really responsible for my past sins.

But if society knows it all, if I knew it all before I sinned, then I sinned deliberately, knowing exactly what I am doing (see Romans 7). Then, why did I do it if I knew that it was wrong! Why do people try to live a moral life? Is it not that they recognize the truth? Why be bitter toward the lifestyle which we recognize ourselves has the greatest power for good this world has ever seen? Why are there so many "believers" who would be glad to know that there is no Satan and no hell?

The answer was in the verse: in our natural un-regenerated state we love darkness and not light, and thus, we hate the light. Instead we enjoy sin, we relish its taste, we love *"getting away with it"* We find in it joy and pleasure and our flesh is pampered. What do we hate? Anybody or anything that tends to UPSET OUR PLEASURE, or MAKES US FEEL UNHAPPY, and WHO DARES SUGGEST THAT WE MIGHT BE WRONG AND EVIL. This is part of the Spirit's ministry, as Messiah sent Him to do but WE DON'T LIKE IT!

What we need is not more light, but a new nature that will be capable of loving the light instead of hating it. Is not knowledge we need, is love. We need a transformation, a metamorphosis of the mind {soul: mind, will, emotions} a renewing of ourselves in Messiah. No one can do it out of his or her own accord, yet it HAS happened. It happened to Rabbi *Sha'ul*, it happened to *Miriam* of Magdalena, and it happened to me. Will you let it happen to you? Let us pray... Shabbat Shalom!