

Jesus Delivers, Redeems, Shows us the Father, Creates, and is Head of the Church

Opening:

An article written by Dr. Jamie Austin reveals he discovered in research humans have an average attention span of 8.25 seconds by age 31 compared to 12 seconds in 2000. A goldfish's attention span is 9 seconds.

Happily Ever After

Walking into the Sunset

The Rest of the Story not Told

My sermon this morning focuses on the story not told.

Text: [Col 1:13-19 KJV] 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins:

Tonight

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased [the Father] that in him should all fulness dwell;

Introduction:

What is the Power of Darkness

An Indicator You are in Darkness: Are you hungry for more of Jesus?

How Do Christians Fall under the Power of Darkness

Deliverance Only Comes from God

What is the Power of Darkness

Have you ever went through a dark room that you go through every day when the room has light?

Symbolic meaning: a metaphor to represent evil, fear, ignorance, and the unknown.

Religious Context: Satan and his demons working against God's will trying to tempt us

Impact on Individuals: Causes an internal struggle against negative thoughts, desires, or behaviors that lead us towards the darkness.

The power of darkness:

Is skilled at concealment. We should live open lives.

Afflicts and depresses people. We should have the Joy of the Lord

Can fascinate us. We should be fascinated with the things of God

Is a cover for evil. We should live in the light.

Evil has a strong influence over folks dealing with unbelief.

It's Easier to get into trouble than it is to get out of trouble.

You might think you got yourself out of darkness, but the power of darkness still has a hold on you if God played no role in releasing you.

The Law cannot Release you from the Power of Darkness

There is no redemption from following the law. The Law was not designed to redeem us or release us.

The blood from animal sacrifices under the Law required a spotless animal, but the blood of those animals only covered sin. This blood did not remove sin.

An Indicator you are under the Power of darkness: How hungry are you for More of Christ?

[Mat 5:6 KJV] 6 Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

How many of us are totally satisfied with our walk with Christ?

Do you ever get discouraged with your relationship with God because you want to get closer to Him?

Hunger for God causes us to search for God with our whole heart.

[Pro 8:17 NLT] 17 "I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me.

[Jer 29:13 NLT] 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Do We Really want to be delivered from Darkness?

If we don't believe we are in Darkness, why would we want to be delivered?

David Jeremiah said in a recent message, "We all have about as much of God as we really want."

Are you locked in under your initial commitment to Christ when you got saved?

You can't grow in the Lord if you don't have a hunger for more of God.

The Big questions: Will He Deliver? vs Do You want to be Delivered?

The Lord wants to Deliver Everyone

(David) [Psa 37:40 KJV] 40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

(Solomon) [Psa 72:12 KJV] 12 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and [him] that hath no helper.

Some See no Need to be Delivered from Anything

[Pro 14:12 KJV] 12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

[Pro 16:25 KJV] 25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

How Do Christians fall under the Power of Darkness

Spiritual Blindness

Unbelief

At Ease in Zion

Fear

Influence of Darkness

Many Christians are blind to knowing they are under the Power of Darkness

[Jhn 9:39 KJV] 39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

[Jhn 9:39 NLT] 39 Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment--to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."

The Power of Darkness comes from

Unbelief

[2Co 4:3-4 KJV] 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the **god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Fear

[Gal 2:11-15 KJV] 11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. 12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. 13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. 14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before [them] all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? 15 We [who are] Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

[Gal 2:11-14 NLT] 11 But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. 12 When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile Christians, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. 13 As a result, other Jewish Christians followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14 When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?"

The Power of Darkness Reigns (Has a heavy influence)

[Luk 22:53 NLT] 53 Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day. But this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns."

Deliverance Only Comes from God

We cannot deliver ourselves in any way. We cannot work our way to heaven.

[Eph 2:8-9 KJV] 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

[Gal 2:16 KJV] 16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

[Col 1:13 KJV] 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Paul tells King Agrippa.

[Act 26:17-18 KJV] 17 Delivering thee from the people, and [from] the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

After Delivering us, the Lord puts us in His family

We are adopted into the Kingdom of God

[Rom 8:15 NLT] 15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

The Lord has a purpose for delivering us.

He delivered Paul for ministry and Paul responded

He delivered us to serve Him also