

## Pushing Back the Darkness! Part 1: "Racism!"

Opened the Year... "Bearing the Light..." From Genesis, "Let there be light..." To the Gospels, "I am the Light of the World..." John 8.12, 9.5 To Pentecost's, "Tongues of fire sat on each one of them..." A2.3 Now you are the "Light of the world... a city on a hill... candle on the stand... LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE..." Mt 5.14-16 Set to bear the light for Father of Lights, Father of the Light! James 1.17

"I have set you to be a great light to the unsaved, that you should be for salvation unto the ends of the earth!" Acts 13.47

Now... Pushing back the darkness... *getting in the way of darkness...* reaching in to rescue the captives in darkness! Change in operation! Not a passive-aggressive concept!

"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force!" Mt 11.12

"Beginning with John the Baptist's appearance, and continuing now with Me, the realm of heaven advances by forcible entry and the ones *whose minds are made up (like Ours)* take their objectives by force..."

The trumpets sounded, war was declared, the saints who have made up their minds to follow will armor up, bang their shields with their swords and assault the darkness for the souls of mankind!

"Take the whole armor of God to keep standing in the evil days... truth, righteousness, preparation in the gospel of peace (with God)... *ABOVE ALL TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH to quench the fiery darts which incapacitate you... take the helmet of your salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God!*" Eph 6.13-17

We no longer live in a take it or leave it society! The darkness wants to violate us and the world, and we are going to have to stop it by force! It's time for all believers to make up their minds to go active and get proactive!

Last together... Talking to you from the Life Changers viewpoint... Left you with five choices we have made as a troop... The Word of God... To get in the way of darkness... Investing in our values, two gen... Preparing, proving and sending our own soldiers into the world... Fighting side-by-side with people of all backgrounds!

Before we can ever begin talking about getting in the way of demons... dead religion... cold hearts (like Jesus!) Have the hot button topics of our day to defeat... IN US!

Have to wrap ourselves up in faith, which comes by hearing, studying, the word of God! *So the darts can't incapacitate us and so we have a two edged sword coming out of our mouths!*

Open our series with a study in side-by-side, all-bleed-the-same-in the-battlefield, *anti-racism!*

The Study... "For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [And in Christ] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus..." Galatians 3.26-28

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus... v26 "We have received the Spirit of *adoption* whereby we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit bears witness with ours that we are the children of God... heirs of God, joint heirs with Jesus!" Rom 8.15-17 "You are all children of light and of the day, not of night or darkness..." 1Thess 5.5

As "adoptees," *first distinctions, alien-ations, removed!*

For as many as were into Christ baptized, you put on Christ... v27 Not saying salvation comes thru baptism... "*children by faith...*" v26 But remember: "As many as were baptized with Him, died with Him to be raised up into newness of life! Rom 6.3-5 *New creations*, created for good works, foreordained..." Eph 2.10 "To put on Christ" (Rom 13.14) denotes *the transition* to the whole system of His habits/ways!

There cannot be Jew nor Greek, CNB slaves and free, CNB male and female because *you are all one* in Christ... v28 The term Jew covers a *religion, a culture, a race, and color...* "Greek" covers ethnicity and philosophy... CNB socio/economic separations... CNB male/female discriminations... "In Christ" *CAN NOT BE* outward discriminations!

In the ancient world, as now, these differences were all being agitated by dark forces and Paul was meeting them with this *anti-racist, non-prejudice*, truth!

All one! Having received the same mercy and grace as *children of God...* Being *adopted by One God and Father* thru the incarnation and mediation of His Son... Let us come to the organic unity we have as the *BODY OF CHRIST...* And hopefully, helpfully, unitedly, take our stand against all darkness!

A Color Demonstration! "Doesn't hurt anything to call people black and white..." Already established that it's inaccurate/inarticulate... No blacks, no whites... Only shades of brown! Descendants of three sons of Noah, one blood!

"FIVE YEAR OLD GIRL SHOT AND KILLED BY TWO GUYS..." Laylah Petersen was sitting on her grandfather's lap when she was stuck and killed by a hail of gunfire on Milwaukee's Northwest side... Two suspects approached the house which belonged to her grandparents and opened fire, one bullet pierced a wall striking the girl in the head... [TRAGIC ENOUGH WITH THAT INFORMATION]

[REAL HEADLINE] "FIVE YEAR OLD WHITE GIRL SHOT AND KILLED BY TWO BLACK GUYS..." Laylah Petersen was sitting on her grandfather's lap when she was stuck and killed by a hail of gunfire on Milwaukee's Northwest side... Two suspects approached the house which belonged to her grandparents and opened fire, one pierced a wall striking the girl in the head... [Still think it's *benign* to use color descriptors?]

"It was another routine day in Mount Clemens, Michigan for Alexander Burkart, 22, who worked as a pizza delivery driver. When he made a stop to deliver a couple of pizzas to Javon Cates and Deandra Arnold, getting stabbed to death was probably the last thing on his mind. Since July 2014, Burkart is the seventh documented case of a white pizza delivery driver to be killed by black assailants." [Real headline: "Two Thugs Do The Unthinkable To White Pizza Delivery Boy... Al Sharpton Silent!"]

The "media" remains on the racial divide bandwagon... "They" fuel waves of renewed violence for the father of violence! EVERY LIFE MATTERS... and blood and carnage knows no color but red! SO, WHAT DO WE DO? FUEL OR EXTINGUISH?

At the very least... Recognize all crimes are perpetrated against our *earthly family members!* "These are the sons of Noah; Shem, Ham and Japeth, and of them was the whole earth overspread! Gen 9.19 We are the progeny of the same brothers of one blood! Differently colored by the environments our ancestor's endured over centuries of life... **All spring from the same DNA!**

On the highest plane... Walking worthy of our high calling, with all humility, meekness, longsuffering and forbearance of one another in love... we eagerly keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; there is one body, one Spirit, one hope of calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism AND ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL , WHO IS ABOVE ALL AND THRU ALL AND IN YOU ALL! Eph 4.4-6 **Have a calling to walk higher!**

And if that doesn't do it... Katagoros: Ka-teg-oros: kata-agera: category: categories! A class or group of people or things, a division, grouping in a systematic way... Katagoros: "For the Accuser of the Brethren is cast down, which accused them before God day and night!" Rev 12.10 Kata: against, Agora, the assembly

To continue to "categorize" when God has called us to "unitize..." **Is to side with our enemy!**

Our colors are transient... our DNA fundamental... our accuracy is intelligent... our bloodline eternal... our graciousness is necessary... Until it comes to pushing back the darkness... there we seek, speak and stand up against the Accuser, Slanderer and Divider of our Brothers!