

## Afraid of the Light

Ponder: Not fear of the dark, but of the light

Scripture: “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:20, NKJV).

We easily understand fear of the dark. Most of us have “been there, done that”! But why would anyone be afraid of the light?

Actually, it isn't that difficult. The same children who fear the dark may seek it out in order to hide naughty behavior. Adults do the same on a larger scale. “Those who get drunk are drunk at night” (1 Thess. 5:7). Most criminal activity occurs at night simply because it's easier to hide in darkness.

Jesus came as “the light shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:5). That is to say, the sinful world neither understood nor accepted Jesus, but tried and failed to extinguish the light. Again we ask, “Why?” John answers: “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:19-20).

As Jesus is the light of the world, so He told His disciples, “You are the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). By word and deed, we are charged to shine the light of day on a dark, sinful world. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them” (Eph. 5:11).

But don't expect the world to like it any more than it liked Jesus! People fear having their sins exposed, and that fear often manifests itself in anger. Just a good example of godly behavior may be enough to bring ridicule from fleshly-minded neighbors. “They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (1 Pet. 4:4).

We ought to fear the darkness of ignorance and sin, and avoid it like the plague that it is. But don't fear the light! Instead, reflect the light of Christ to illuminate this dark world!

Song: “This Little Light Of Mine”

Prayer: God our Father, we stand in awe of You, the one who dwells in light unapproachable. We praise You for our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, who came to give us the light of life. May we not fear that light, but glory in it, and reflect it to the dark world around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.