

Prayer List

Sierra
Gene
Veda
Judy
The Williams' Family
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

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Light”

Fred Gore

LIGHT IS A MARVELOUS CREATION OF GOD. Its nature, even today, is not fully understood, and yet there are very few of us who do not recognize its importance to our daily lives. The sun provides us with light and warmth, without which the earth would be a wasteland. Obviously, without light sight would be impossible. We use light to warn, to guide, and to protect. Our world would be difficult, to say the least, if we were not blessed with light.

Throughout the New Testament light is used to symbolize the nature of God and the character of His children. Ephesians 5:8–9 says, “For ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth).” In 1 Peter 2:9 we are informed that we have been called “out of darkness into his marvelous light: who in time past were no people, but now are the people of God: who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” The need for spiritual thinking and moral purity is seen in 1 John 1:7 where we are told that “if we walk in

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This Week's Question:

What prophet told Ahab that Israel was scattered like sheep?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Daniel - Daniel 7:4

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the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” Let’s notice a few significant principles concerning our being “children of light.”

In the physical realm, light is essential to life. Through the process of photosynthesis plants convert the energy of light and chlorophyll into the carbohydrates necessary for life. Without the aid of the sun, our crops would die. In the spiritual realm, light is also essential to life. John 1:1 and 4 informs us, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” Jesus affirmed that He is the light of men when He said, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). All too often, we refuse to “see the light” and seek to blindly follow our own dictates. To believe we are “in the light” and that we are pleasing to God under these conditions is foolish and empty reasoning.

In the physical realm, light is used to warn. Lights at railroad crossings warn of the approach of a train. Light signals at intersections warn us concerning who has the “right of way.” Flashing lights tell us of the need to “slow down” or to “stay clear.” Jesus is our spiritual light and He has delivered unto us all of the warnings that we need to safely reach heaven. John 12:46 and 48 say, “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me may not abide in the darkness.... He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day.” We can’t ignore the warnings given to us in our day-

to-day lives and expect to be safe from harm, in either the physical or the spiritual realm!

Light is also used to guide. Our highways are well lit to make it easier to stay on the right route. Runways are lined with light and thereby guide the pilot to the proper place of landing. Giant spotlights are often employed to draw the curious to the “grand opening” or the “close-out sale.” God has given us guidance through the light of the world, Jesus. Ephesians 5:7–13 tells us that we are children of light through Jesus and that the unfruitful works of darkness are made manifest “by the light.” We can know right from wrong through the guidance of God and thereby know that we are in Him, for “he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked” (1 John 2:5–6).

Light provides us with safety and assurance. When the streets of a city are bathed in light during the day, the crime rate is lower. Sections of a city that are well lit by street lights generally have lower crime rates than the sections enveloped by darkness. It is a praiseworthy act for the leaders of a town to seek to have their city well lit. In the spiritual realm, we also find safety and assurance in the light. It gives us safety because the light has given us knowledge of the truth and of the proper path of righteousness. It gives us assurance and hope because we can look ahead and see the goal of heaven lying before us and know that God has promised it to the faithful. Let us all seek to “be children of light” in the truest sense of the word!