



**b. Darkness represents God's chastisement .**

Darkness is used to represent God's chastening with the purpose of securing repentance (Exodus 10:21-22).

**c. Darkness denotes sadness .**

The Psalmist reminds us of this in Psalm 30:5.

**d. Darkness suggests bitter despair .**

Darkness suggests profound and bitter despair. We read about in Job's life (Job 3:1-4).

What dark night are you experiencing? What is obscuring the light? Is it bondage to some sin? Is it lust, greed, anger, hatred, rebellion? Is it God's chastening and discipline? Is it some sadness, depression, sorrow or grief? Is it some despair? Is it regret, remorse and resentment? Is it the darkness of addiction to alcohol or pornography or gambling?

No matter what is darkening your life right now, there's a song, *The Sun Will Shine Again*, written by Mary Fay Jackson and Mike Culpepper that says,  
"The Sun will shine again. You'll make it through your darkest hour.  
Jesus will be your friend; The Holy Ghost will give you power!  
So whatever challenge you may face, Don't give up, keep the faith.  
Put your trust in Him, your Sun will shine again."

The darker the night the brighter the stars shine. This is a Biblical truth (John 1:4-5). It is often in our darkest nights that God makes His presence known most clearly. When we see this truth, we receive new hope. The Sun will supersede the darkest night, and it will shine again. It will also shine:

**2. After the fiercest storm .**

In life we face several types of storms. Here are just a few.

**a. Natural Storms.**

**b. Physical Storms.**

**c. Spiritual Storms.**

The pressures, troubles, perplexities and hard knocks Paul mentions are like storms in our lives. Bad days come; sometimes like a sudden squall or blizzard or torrential rain. When the storm strikes the lights go out and the skies blacken and we are engulfed in the storm's darkness.

That same song says,

"Everyone has a story of storms in their life;  
Some are survivors, while others never arrive.  
God bless us with a new day, love and happiness.  
If we fall we can repent, our Sun will shine again."

What is your storm today? Is it a failed marriage? Is it a grim prognosis from the doctor? Is it loss of employment? Is it depression, despair and defeat? Is it fear, anxiety and worry? From the day the first storm broke the calm to this day there has never failed to be a sunny day after the storm. Another song, *It Won't Rain Always*, written by Janet Paschal declares,

"Someone said that in each life some rain is bound to fall  
and each one sheds his share of tears and trouble troubles us all  
but the hurt can't hurt forever and the tears are sure to dry

And it won't rain always - the clouds will soon be gone  
the Sun that they've been hiding has been there all along  
And it won't rain always - God's promises are true  
the Sun's gonna shine in His own good time  
and He will see you through."

What was the fiercest, darkest storm you have ever experienced? I thought about about 15 years ago when Bill Schottel, Philip and I went to Joplin to look a van, actually the turquoise one that we drove for several years. We hit a storm south of Kansas City that was dark, and the rain was so hard you couldn't see 2 feet in front of you. We slowed down, and it was a good thing because there were cars that just stopped in front of us, right in the roadway. But in just a few miles it quit raining, and it turned off sunny and bright. When you are in the midst of a storm, don't stop, don't rush ahead; keep alert, look straight ahead, press on and pray.

The Sun will shine even after the fiercest storm, and it will shine:

### **3. Following the blackest eclipse .**

#### **a. A Solar Eclipse.**

#### **b. A Soul-ar Eclipse.**

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, and the Moon fully or partially blocks ("eclipses") the Sun. It can be darker than night when that happens, as we are about to experience tomorrow.

There is also such a thing as "Soular Eclipse," caused when, as it says in our text, "Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News." An eclipse of the glorious light happens when Satan blinds an unbelieving mind and makes a life exist in darkness.

Now consider this: The Sun is roughly 400 times bigger than the Moon, but it is also about 400 times farther away from the earth. Yet the small Moon blots out the huge Sun because it stands between it and us, and closer to us. So it is when we let even small things get between us and God so as to eclipse Him.

Do not try to look directly at the Sun for any reason. That's why we have eclipse glasses. You can make your own eclipse effect if you put on your solar eclipse glasses and hold a coin very close to your eye. Small as it is, it will block out your sight of the Sun.

What happens when you do that? That which you are focusing on blots out your vision. That's what happens with sin. It blots out our ability to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. What is it that is eclipsing His light in your life?

Sometimes the occlusion is inside us. For example, many of you have had to have the cataracts removed because they have eclipsed the light from your eyes. When the cataracts are removed the eclipse was gone and then you become eagle eyed. Some of you don't even need your glasses anymore.

Look inside your heart and mind. What spiritual or moral or mental cataracts are eclipsing God's light? His light still shines behind the eclipse so when we remove everything that blocks our vision of God, the eclipse ends and the Sun shines brightly again.

Here are some common causes of spiritual eclipses. It may be love of money and material possessions. It may be a desire to get even with someone who has wronged you. It may be some passion, desire and lust for some forbidden fruit. It may be a

consuming desire for popularity, power, prestige or position. It may be self-righteousness that refuses to acknowledge our need of forgiveness and salvation through Christ. It may be pride, arrogance or conceit or a sense of superiority. Whatever it may be that stands between you and God will eclipse your view of His light – that's called a "SOULAR Eclipse."

That Jackson and Culpepper song says,

"There are millions of lonely people, young and old alike

Some are rich, some are poor, some will never see daylight."

We are reminded of what the Psalmist said in Psalm 107:10-14 and what David wrote in Psalm 139:11-12. Because of His light, the Sun will shine again.

### **Conclusion:**

No matter what your darkness, a cry for help will touch God's heart and He will lead you from darkness into light. The Sun will shine again! Verse 6 from our text reminds us of the light God has provided for us. Come to that light today.

### ***Come Into His Light!***

## **Are You Scared of the Dark?**

When our children were little we had night lights throughout the house. Now we just stub our toes every night, producing future arthritis in our feet. But think of all those pennies we've saved on the electric bill.

Tomorrow, August 21<sup>st</sup>, the sky will darken at midday and we will experience a lifetime event. Some have associated this with what happened the day Jesus was crucified. While this comparison seems believable, the science doesn't add up. To know the truth, we must ask three questions: Where? What? Why?

**1. Where?** (All the land, the Whole Land) By the time the darkness came, Jesus had already hung on the cross for 3 hours, from 9 o'clock to twelve noon. At the 6th hour (noon) darkness blanketed the land until the 9th hour (3 o'clock) in the afternoon. The part of the earth that was supposed to have sunlight during that time of the day didn't have it for 3 hours. Tertullian, a church historian, was writing to some pagan adversaries in the second century. He wrote, "At the moment of Christ's death, the light departed from the sun and the land was darkened at noonday. This wonder is related in your (speaking to heathen adversaries) own annals and is preserved in your archives to this day." Phlegon, a Roman astronomer, says of that day, "The greatest eclipse of the sun that was ever known happened then, for the day was so turned into night that the stars appeared."

**2. What?** (The sun stopped shining- Luke 23:45) What caused it?

(1) *An Eclipse?* This was the time of the Passover and the time of a full moon. Astronomers tell us that a solar eclipse is impossible at this time. An eclipse never occurs suddenly as did this incident and a total eclipse only lasts for a few minutes, never three full hours.

(2) *A Natural Phenomena?* Could it be a darkness like that associated with a volcanic eruption? This darkness covered the entire land and it came suddenly. Earthquakes happen with volcanic eruptions but there is no mention of ash or rocks falling.

(3) *A Dust Storm or Cloud Cover?* What about a dark cloud cover which suddenly rolled in or perhaps a very heavy dust storm? Again, it is unlikely because of its suddenness.

(4) *An Act of God?*

If this happened the way that the Scriptures say it did, then the natural world would have been in a mess. Think about the changes that would come about if all of the sunlight stopped for 3 hours. The temperatures would plummet and causing changes in weather, in the water currents, in the tides. Yet none of this is mentioned in the Scriptures. Why? It's because God didn't allow those things to happen. All things are possible with God. It came suddenly and ended suddenly with no warning, like the turning off of a light. The Revised Standard Version says in this verse that the sun's light failed; the New Living Translation says that the light from the sun was gone.

Exactly how deep or black was this darkness? We are not told. It was not the twilight fading of the sun, but an all-encompassing, frighteningly sudden darkness. In nature, darkness always surrenders to light. But here, the darkness of Calvary was so intense that it smothered the light. This is an amazing thing to consider.

**3. Why?** God stopped the sun from shining to highlight these things about The Cross.

*Men love spiritual darkness.* We do not like physical darkness, but we love spiritual darkness (John 3:19-20, Ephesians 5:11-14). This hateful crowd around the cross illustrates this very well (Matthew 27:18).

*The crucifixion wasn't enough for them.* They stood around the cross mocking Him and heaping insults on Him (Psalm 22:6-8, 16).

*Once they got a good taste of that darkness, they found out they really didn't like it.* What happened during the darkness? Silence (Exodus 10:21 NIV). The evil, cruel taunts, the sarcastic comments, all were hushed. Darkness is frightening, and as they experience this darkness, they trembled at the connection of this event to the crucifixion of Jesus.

When the light came back their attitude was different. After He died, we have the reaction from the centurion and those who were watching (Matthew 27:54).

There was a battle going on between spiritual forces. The darkness symbolizes the inconceivable suffering of Jesus Christ in His death (2 Corinthians 5:21, Isaiah 53:5). His suffering was hidden from all human eyes. No human eyes were intended to see Him in His supreme anguish.

What does it mean to be forsaken by God? No living man could know. We are surrounded by His graces. We are sustained by His mercies. We are daily dependent upon Him to sustain us. Whether we believe in Him or not.

There may have been times when you felt forsaken by God. Perhaps there's nothing sadder than seeing a person forsaken: A child forsaken by his parents, a wife forsaken by her husband, or a person forsaken by his friends. These are in no way equal to a man forsaken by God.

That's what it's all about. Jesus was forsaken by the Father that we need never be forsaken. He tasted death for us, that we might know life in Him. The darkness shows us what hell will be like. Completely forsaken by God, alone in darkness for all of eternity.

But there's hope. Read Revelation 21:23. Praise to the Lamb!

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

## Opportunities For Service

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

**Sunday, August 20, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Joseph Coats, Gary Yarbrough, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

**Monday, August 21**

*Total Solar Eclipse*

**Wednesday, August 23**

Higgins Funeral Dinner

..... 4:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

**Thursday, August 24**

Food Pantry Day

W Team ..... 6:30 pm

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Diversicare Service .... 2:30 pm

Evening Worship ..... 6:30 pm

**Monday, August 28**

Workers Meeting.....6:30 pm

**Wednesday, August 30**

Prayer / Bible Study ....6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**August 21 — Total Solar Eclipse**

**August 28 — Sunday School Workers Meeting 6:30 pm**

**September 2 — 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for**

**Bob and Karen Smith, Queen City, MO, 2-4 pm**

**September 3 — Carry-In Dinner to Honor the Waters, NOON**

**September 9 — Missouri Baptist Children's Home Apple Festival**

**September 14 — BY ALL MEANS WMU Conference, Grand Oaks**

**GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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**Sunday Nights**

We will not meet tonight, Sunday, August 13th.

**Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray this week. at 6:30 pm.

## **50th Anniversary Celebration**

Bob and Karen Smith (Lois Smith's son, Betty Campbell's daughter) will celebrate 50 years of marriage on September 2 from 2-4 at First Baptist Church, Queen City, Mo. Bob is the pastor. The church will have a money tree. Send cards to 104 East Vine Street, Queen City, Mo. 63561. (Questions? Call Randy Harr, 617-1042.)

## **Missouri Missions Offering**

This year's theme is 1 Corinthians 3:9a — "For we are laborers together with God." More to come.

### **Sunday, September 3**

#### **Carry-In Dinner**

In honor of Tim and Sharon Waters and family we will have a carry-in dinner immediately following our Sunday morning services. This will be Tim's last Sunday as our Worship Leader.

#### **Servants Needed**

Help! Our current van drivers need some relief! Would you be willing to drive one month out of the year? See George or Mike.

## **Apple Festival**

The Missouri Baptist Children's Home sponsors this annual event September 9th at First Baptist Church, Raymore, MO.

9 am to 3 pm

## **BY ALL MEANS**

Northwest WMU Retreat

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Grand Oaks, Chillicothe, MO

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We will take the van if enough are willing to go.

## *In Sympathy*

*We express*

*Christian Sympathy*

*to the family of*

*Peter James Terpack*

*July 23, 2017 - August 11, 2017 (grandson of Vicki Long).*

*We also express*

*Christian Sympathy*

*to the family of  
Gary Diggins.  
Gary passed away  
August 17, 2017.*

## ***For the Record-***

### **Attendance: August 13, 2017**

Sunday School.....	38
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	38
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	48
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night .....	7
Wednesday Night .....	14

### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget ..... \$ 2,040.52  
Offering Received ... \$ 1,959.22

### **Offering Received by Mail:**

Eric and Shelly Thompson

### **August Counting Team:**

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

### **August Van Driver:**

Mike Green  
Call 232-3747 before 8 am

### **August Member Birthdays:**

02...Darlene Messner  
09...Dottie Wildberger  
18...Don Beavers  
18...Tonia Meers  
22...Beverly Lewis

### **August Anniversaries**

**David and Annette Schottel**  
August 5, 1989

**Tim and Sharon Waters**  
August 10, 1985

## **Prayer Requests ...**

The Higgins Family  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack  
Shawna Hughes—home isolation  
Chad Bradford—heart surgery  
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough  
Elmer and Jo Mayse  
Mike Green—knee replacement  
Larry Danner—cancer  
Emily Jones, Tammy's daughter  
Gina Harr—recovery  
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister  
Pat Means—Mary Sharp's Sister  
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son  
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim  
Don and Marcia — house sale  
Troy Griswold—cancer treatment  
Gary & Peggy Fewins and family  
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter  
LoLeta Middleton—strength  
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister  
Rev. A. B. Brown     Betty Campbell  
George Ferbert  
Ellen Blanton     Lois Ulmer  
Jim Winans     Nellie Reynolds  
Madeline Swink     Ann Riddle  
Kathryn Beavers     Keon McKahan  
Louanne Laurence     Leona Reynolds  
Jozy Winans     Kenny Duty  
Kevin Duty     Buddy Means  
Bill & Juanita     Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett     Judy Anderson  
Brenda Burgess     Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts     Tim Izer  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service Women and Men  
Terrorism in our world  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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## **Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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## **Five More New Families...**

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