

Quarter Two: The Great Controversy
Lesson 3—Light Shines in the Darkness
Thursday: Battle for the Mind
April 18, 2024

- **Last Week:** “The Central Issue: Love or Selfishness?”
 - The unselfish love of Christ & those who follow Him
 - Unselfish Christians, reaching out with love toward humanity
- **This Week:** “Light Shines in the Darkness”
 - Satan’s persecutory & deceptive nature (dragon & serpent)
 - Church was persecuted
 - When that didn’t work, compromise entered the church

Memory Text: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.’” (John 12:35, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Satan’s Subtle Strategy (John L)
 - John 14:6 / John 8:44 – Jesus as the Truth vs Satan as a liar & deceiver; importance of the Word of God to combat deception
- 2. **Monday:** Savage Wolves (James)
 - Acts 20; 2 Thess 2 – persecution from without the church & compromise from within – idol worship & substitution of Sunday, instead of Sabbath
- 3. **Tuesday:** Safeguarded by the Word (John D)
 - John 17 & Acts 20 – importance of upholding the inspiration of the Word of God for proper understanding of truth
- 4. **Wednesday:** Human Reasoning Apart from Scripture (Daniel)
 - Truth not being human opinion; matter of divine revelation; Word of God needs to be final word of truth & morality
- 5. **Thursday:** Battle for the Mind (Jill)
 - 2 Cor 4:3 – 6 – Great Controversy = a battle for the mind of humanity; the Word & Jesus as the light in this battle

Thursday: Battle for the Mind
2 Cor 4:3 – 6; John 1:4, 5, 9, 14

- Battle for the mind
 - Great Controversy = battle for the mind of humanity
 - Whom will we serve?
 - Battle in heaven
 - War of words “*polemos*”
 - Who was just? Who was fair? Who was love?

- Battle on earth
 - Is God withholding something from you? (Eve – “be like gods”)
 - Who is telling the truth?
 - What can we believe?
- Battle to choose
 - We have choices every day
 - Christ or Satan
 - His Word or human reasoning / understanding
 - Faith or doubt
 - Truth or deception
- Battle for the Mind
 - How can our minds be “darkened?”
 - How can our minds be “enlightened?”
- **How can our minds be “darkened?”**
 - **1. Unbelief**
 - 2 Cor 4:3, 4 – “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) whose minds the god of this age has **blinded, who do not believe**, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”
 - Satan blinds or darkens men’s minds when they refuse to believe
 - BC, Vol 6, p. 854 - “The battle between Christ & Satan is a battle for the minds of men...Satan’s principal work is to blind or darken men’s minds. He does this by keeping them from the study of God’s Word, by deranging the powers of the mind through the excesses of body and soul, by wholly occupying the mind through the things of this life, and by appealing to pride and self-exaltation.”
 - **2. Fear**
 - John 3:19, 20 – “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. (20) For everyone practicing evil hates the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”
 - Fear keeps us from following Jesus
 - Fear keeps us from surrender
 - Fear of ridicule, fear of exposure or being found out
 - **3. Rejection**
 - John 1:5 – “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not **comprehend** it.”
 - Comprehend, Gk, “lay hold of, seize” – ‘to possess, lit or figuratively;’ ‘to make one’s own, to take into oneself, appropriate’
 - Light shone into the darkness – we chose to reject that Light
 - Lesson: “The lack of knowledge on the part of the lost is not because they could not know. It is because they would not know.”

- **How can our minds be “enlightened?”** (Lesson Title = “Light Shines in the Darkness”)
 - **1. Look to the Light (Jesus)**
 - John 1:1, 4 – “**In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... (4) In Him was life, and the **life was the light of men.**”
 - Before there was a beginning, the Word was
 - Preexistent God; Jesus is Divine
 - Jesus brings light
 - 2 Cor 3:18 – “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
 - Instead of looking to Jesus, we look to –
 - Helpful sources
 - Other people
 - Books (not the Bible)
 - Double-edged sources (helpful or harmful)
 - Social media
 - TV
 - Internet
 - Harmful sources
 - Astrology
 - Meditation
 - Eastern religions / non-Christian sources
 - Witchcraft
 - **2. Believe in the Light (Jesus)**
 - John 12:35, 36 – “Then Jesus said to them, ‘A little while longer the light is with you, Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. (36) While you have the light, **believe in the light**, that you may become sons of the light.’”
 - Not enough to simply look to Jesus as One avenue of many
 - Must believe in Him
 - **3. Follow the Light (Jesus)**
 - John 8:12 – “...I am the light of the world. He who **follows Me** shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
 - Not enough to “look” nor enough to believe – even the devils believe...
 - Must surrender to His control
 - Following cuts across our
 - Natural tendencies / inclination
 - Selfishness
 - Pride
 - **4. Allow the Light to live inside you**
 - 2 Cor 4:6, 7 – “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (7) But we have this treasure (the gospel) in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”
 - Jesus, the Light of the world, shone into our hearts

- Gal 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
 - When Christ lives in us, He does the work – we surrender & allow Him access
- **5. Be intentional**
 - Rom 13:14 – “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”
 - Phil 4:8 – “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”
 - True, noble, just
 - Pure, lovely, of good report
 - Virtuous, praiseworthy