

UNTIL THE LIGHT COMES ON



Okay, so the pagan world is in spiritual darkness.

But there is a spiritual darkness far deeper than the darkness of the pagan world.

The darkness of believers who have lost their way.

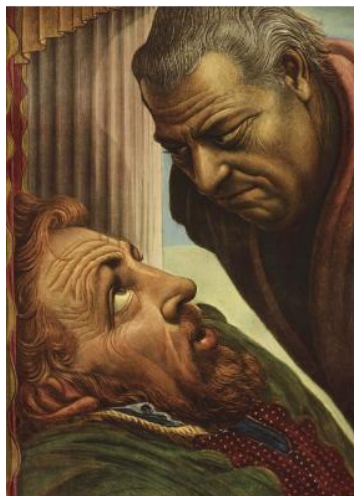
The darkness of people who claim to be walking in the light even as they stumble.

When King David took Bathsheba and arranged to have her husband killed he told himself that all is well.

If unease was gnawing at his soul, he ignored it.

After all, he was King. He could do as he pleased. Until Nathan the prophet pronounced heaven's judgment on David

....and the light came on.



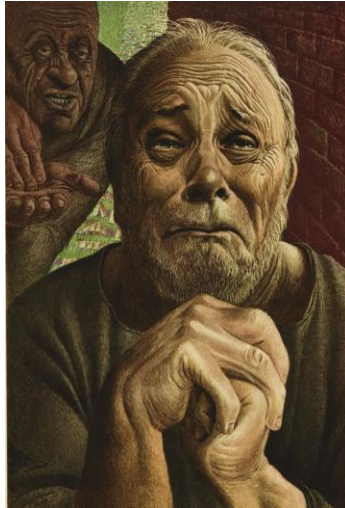
“Now the sword shall not depart from your house!”

In the light of God's judgment David's eyes were opened.

He trembled with shame.

He cried out for forgiveness and received it.

But David lived with the consequences of his sin for the rest of his life.



Our days may be sunny, and we may be smiling, but if we are walking in that kind of spiritual darkness, our life is a sham.

At the right moment God always turns on the light.

In his mercy God gives us a chance to face reality and repent.

If we repent, God raises us up and gives us all the light we need to walk in peace.

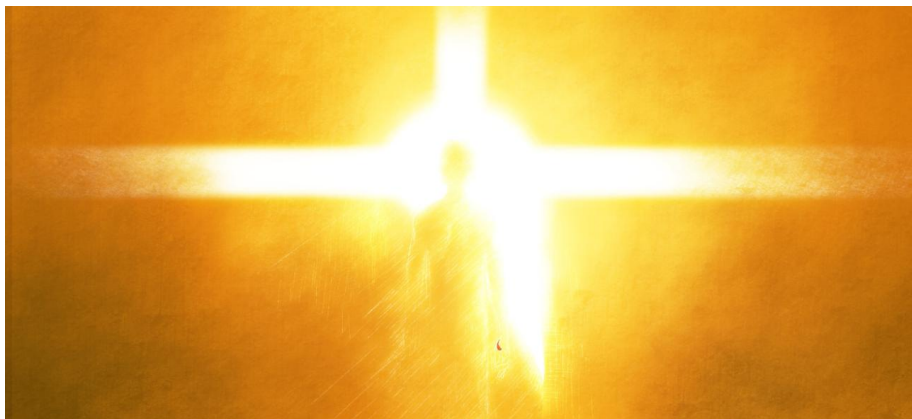
If we shut our eyes and reject the truth our darkness deepens.

At death the light comes on for us all.

... It is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment.

Hebrews 9

From that light there is no escape.



No escape for the rich man who ignored Lazarus.

No escape for us.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:9-13

Eternal life begins the minute we allow Jesus to lift us out of our darkness into his light.

Eternal life is sealed to us as we walk in that light.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:5-9



Prayer: Lord, help us to see when we are stumbling in spiritual darkness, when we've lost our way, and yes when our lives are a sham. Turn the light on for us so that we can see how great the darkness is in us, so that we can repent from not living in your light, repent from fooling ourselves that religion, doctrine, and our opinions can take the place of abiding in you. Forgive us, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, cleanse us from our self-righteousness, cleanse us from our smugness, draw us back to you so the light comes on and we do walk in your true light for the rest of our lives. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber May 2021

Featured Artist: Guy Rowe first 3 paintings. First painting untitled, 2nd painting Nathan confronts David, 3rd painting David mourns Absalom both from the book "In Our Image". The last 2 images are courtesy of Chris Powers at Full of Eyes.

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