

“Ye are the light of the world, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:14 &16).

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

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Published by
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"If they eye of the body by single, your whole body is full of light," but
"If thy eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness," (Matt. 6:22-23)!

Most seeing people never think of themselves as being blind. We see our environment, ourselves, and others and by this seeing we manage our lives as best as we can. Yet the Bible clearly says that our minds are blinded by the god of this world, Satan, unless the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (II Cor. 4:4).

Years ago, my first Bible teacher made an unforgettable statement that stuck with me all through the years. It was, "God has to convince people that they are lost, before they can know that they are saved and fully found in Christ". Why don't we know our lost-ness? It's simple, SELF-RIGHTNESS. Self-generated rightness is the essence of our blindness. We don't see that we as lost people are trying in ourselves to come up with our own way to God. Instead of humbling ourselves before Him and summiting to His way of righteousness, we go about making up our own rightness.

For instance, Think of the religions of the world. They all claim that their god is the real God, and the way to eternal life: Confucius in China; Buddha in Asia; Socrates, and Plato in Greece; and Epictetus in Italy. All as the Bible says, "know in themselves" what may be known of the invisible God by His visible creation, but "have held the truth in

unrighteousness" therefore, before God, are without excuse (Romans 1:18-20).

The Buddhist say the self must disappear, Christianity also says that the Satanic Old Self has to disappear, and go to the Cross, then reappears a right self joined to Christ (Gal. 2:20). The Buddhist don't know that new kind of self, because it can only be found in Jesus Christ. They only know that their self is a self-effort self. This kind of self is Hell, because it is self relying self. The New self in Christ becomes Heaven.

The Hindus say everything is God, actually things themselves are God. That is why they worship and call God a cow, or a monkey. They don't know that God is a person. They are true pantheists by calling things God. Some Christians who know union with Christ are falsely called pantheists because they say that everything is an expression of God, but is not the person of God at the same time.

The Atheists say there is no God, no devil, no hell, no sin, on wrath, no judgment, and no atonement. All are lies, and are vanity, and empty. They call what they live, LIFE, but it is death. They lie to themselves, and to each other. They call faith in God or Christ vain and nonsense.

The Muslim say that creation is not God, but they have no personal connection with God. They don't tolerate idols anywhere, especially in their Mosque. God is invisible, and probably unknowable to them. Ironically, "religious" Christians are like Muslim because they too see

God way off in Heaven, and try to serve Him thru self-effort, knowing very little of the presence of God indwelling them here and now.

Since man was created to worship and is inherently religious, then what is the common denominator to these unrighteous religions? Their worship of God is simply based on SELF-EFFORT, that is, the creation trying to be right by its own reasoning power. Cain is a prime example of this self invented worship. There is only two religions in the world. One religion's way to God is based on either primitive or intelligent self invented attainment, and the other and true religion is based on the merits and attainment of the blood of the crucified and resurrected Christ. No matter what name or how good the religion is or what its claims, if it is based on self-attainment and self-justification, it is an expression of Satan, disguised as man's own righteousness.

Romans 1:25 says it best, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature instead of the Creator, who is blessed forever". Unknowingly, blinded man is desperately trying to be its own savior. Or simply put, TRYING TO TAKE THE PLACE OF GOD, which the Bible calls, an anti-Christ spirit. "Anti" doesn't mean against, it means, take the place of.

Why is man trying to be right in the first place? Man was created by God, with a Spiritual "light that lights every man," and causes mankind to inherently know we should be right before God. However, we were stolen away by Satan, and as a result of our rebellion against God, our minds have been blinded. You say, rebellion? Yes, sin is actually

“Treason” against the sovereign rule and law of the universe, and also inadvertently against the very laws of our own created being. Webster defines treason as: “the offense of attempting overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance”. Hence, sin is “Cosmic Treason”, against our Creator.

SIN IS BROKEN LAW

Law is “How a thing works, or the principle by which things work.” Everything operates and functions properly by the law of its being. A simple illustration of this is: My husband is a retired maintenance man from Ford Motor Company. He maintained machinery. The machinery only worked properly by the laws that its inventor/creator first intended for it to function. It has in itself, its own laws of being. If the machine stopped working properly, and if my husband didn’t already know thru experience the laws of its being, he would then go to the manual to find out what the creator had in mind when he created it. Once investigating the mind of its creator, my husband could see the principle by which the machine worked properly, thereby fixing it.

The Sovereign law of the Universe is “Love”, for God is nothing but Agape Love. Love is safe because it is not for itself. Love goes out of itself and gives and even sacrifices itself totally for others. Love and harmony is the God given law of this universe. Man is not safe, because he is not sacrificial love. The Fall has trapped man in himself, and binding him totally to himself. There are many attempts to come out of this trap of self-seeking, but all fail to succeed. Man simply has

no power and therefore cannot raise himself to his needed, new regenerated self. He needs an intercessor/Savior.

Thomas Merton's was a monk who lived the monastic life at the Our Lady of Gethsemane Monastery hidden in the thick forests and green hills near Louisville, Ky. Although, in the monastery he mentored a group of disciples, but his main goal was to lead other persons to Christ, and not to himself. In his massive amount of writings, including poetry, contemplative studies and autobiographical theses', there is among it all, hidden treasures and much on our union with Christ. Here are some insights on the self-centered self trying to find its way back home from the hell of being for itself. Only to discover that it is only through union with Christ that we can truly be a new rediscovered right-self in Christ. Here are his insights as he identifies and describes the raw self-centered-self trying to discover itself:

FUTILE SELF VAINLY STRIVING TO ATTAIN

Independent-self is a "false, neurotic, empirical, exterior or merely superficial self; the masked or sham or masquerading self; the knotted cramp of imagination or solipsistic bubble who understand itself as the center of the world; the "individual" who parades itself in disguise to impress the crowd; the phony that makes faces at itself as if in a mirror to prove its own reality; the Cartesian ego who thinks of itself as in control of all truth; and the

servile and anxious self who feels that it is walking a tightrope across an abyss of nothingness.

By contrast, there is the possibility of the true self who hides from ordinary consciousness like a shy, wild animal that emerges only when all is very quiet, when no one is present. The true, inner hidden or real self is the person who is capable of genuine dialogue, encounter and communion with others because, in fact, that person is an irrelevant "nobody" a non-identity who has lost self consciousness and self importance. The Christian tradition testifies to the possibility of contemplative reunion with God, the restoration of humankind's lost likeness to God, the return from exile to paradise, the experience of the birth of Christ in the soul, Christ living in the self in such a way that the self is somehow "no longer I." The feared abyss is really the abyss of being, a fullness that awaits commitment, trust and self-forgetfulness. The real self is a liberated, free and autonomous person in union with God or **with being** in its deepest ground"¹.

¹ THOMAS MERTON: SPIRITUAL MASTER, THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS Pg. 7-8

There is no way for mankind to come out of himself, though try as he will. He is hopelessly trapped in his own self trap even though he pretends he is benevolent. But when all is said and done he is only for himself. All have sinned (broken the law of love) and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

The broken "love law" of the universe is "Treason" against the Creator and worthy of death because we are trying to be made right through our own understanding, and self realization, instead of finding out the mind of our Creator, and His original purpose, plan and laws of operation. The bible calls the law of Gods being, "the ROYAL LAW according to the scripture, 'Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself' (James 2:8). So, the Royal Law is unconditional agape LOVE. This verse actually says that we must fulfill this law no matter how evil your neighbor might be. Wow, pretty hard. No, it's not hard, it is **totally impossible** unless we are joined in union with the Creator Himself who is love, and are functioning from the original law of our being in which the Creators intended for us to function. How do we function? It is certainly not be self-effort, but **by faith** in the life of another (Christ in union with you) who is love.

Adam Was God's Love Child

Adam was a "LOVE CHILD." Before he fell, he was a loving expression of his Creator. He properly functioned by the laws of his created being, until, through deception, he came up with his own idea of how to be wise and how to function by self-effort apart from God. Hence, the virgin mind of Adam was darkened and blinded. Therefore, he fell into treason against the Creator. Worthy of instant death, and but for the mercy of God, he was granted time to repent and come back to his Creator. In the mean time he needed a sacrificial animal covering that would be the death substitute for him and give him the opportunity to find the mind of the Creator again and be restored to the glory of his first LOVE expression.

The restoration of God's love child had to be restored by the Creator, Himself. Therefore, God made them a promise, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed, and her see, it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). This was the promise to Satan and man that "the seed of the woman" would be man's total restoration by putting to death Satan's seed imparted to man through the Fall, therefore, the promise of the Cross came into being. A God/Man would have to take away this treason birthed into man at his fall, and restore him back to his Creator.

Man needs a new seed, a divine seed, that is, new divine "sperm" that must be imparted to him through a "new birth". There is only one way. We must die and be reborn from above. "Being born again, not of

corruptible seed, but of incorruptible seed by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (I Peter 1:23). Jesus, the promised "seed of the woman" fulfilled this promise by partaking of our flesh and blood, "that through death, he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb. 2:14). At the Cross, Jesus permanently decapitated Satan, while Satan only temporally bruised Jesus' heel.

Man is delivered from treason and restored back to the Father through the birth of a new Divine nature in him. But what about man's blindness? Why does the Bible say that immature carnal Christians are seeing life "through a glass darkly" (I Cor. 13:12)? Are we as Christians still rubbing our eyes to catch a glimpse of the true seeing and understanding of the Spirit? Or can we, like Moses, see God, "Face to face"? The admonition by the Apostle Paul tell us that we are still partially blinded to the truth: "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may **KNOW** what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" (Eph. 1:17-18). Even though, the promise of the Glory to us Christians is more glorious than that of Moses' (II Cor. 3:11), I dare say that rarely is more glory experienced by today's Christians. It's more to the contrary. Most are falling away from the Glory instead of entering more into it.

How is God going to restore His "love child", when fallen man is trapped in the striving efforts of the satanic mind that has raped his virgin consciousness? Man became blinded by the "false light" of Satan's mind-set of pride, covetousness, and self-centered striving in order to attain righteousness for himself. Jesus came to restore man's lost mind and replace it with the virgin mind of Christ. "How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God" (Heb. 9:14).

Nothing in the universe can be known or be conscious of anything, without opposites. When it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit that we like Jesus, are unable to attain righteousness through the efforts of fallen flesh, we have finally learned that through outer laws and by our weak flesh, we like Jesus too, can do nothing, "In my human self I can do nothing" (John 5:19&30. Human failure is the clue that you have unknowingly passed a vital and mostly undiscovered test. The road to God's righteousness is discovered through the painful road of unrighteous self attainments. Our puny human efforts have failed us and by "the law of opposite," failure has taught us how **not** to function as a Christ person. The outer law worked its reverse effect on us and proved to the created self that it was never created nor meant to work independent from Christ, who is the real power source of the universe.

The Cross of Christ has permanently purged our sins thereby there is no more consciousness of sins"(Heb. 10:2). And union with Christ is total freedom from the outer law of the striving self trying to be its own

righteousness. Instead of a wrong self, we now have a Christ-self able to live the love-life of our Father and are totally restored as His love Child.

A STREAM OF GOD CONSCIOUSNESS INSTEAD OF SIN CONSCIOUSNESS

A stream of God's consciousness comes out of "nothing". It takes no thought on our part; no trying to understand; no reasoning; no reading my bible, no prayers; not even worked up faith. God's conscious awareness comes out of nothing. "It is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom" (Luke 12:32). It is an unearned gift. The only requirement is empty honesty on our part.

What is "nothing"? It is not a thing. It is not having a natural sense of anything, Supernaturally, God is no-thing, but He is everything. He is nowhere, but everywhere. Jesus told the woman at the well, "God is Spirit and he that worships Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in truth" "for the Father seek such to worship Him." (John 4:23-24). The Apostle Paul proclaimed that to fully find Christ, he "suffered the loss of all things" (Phil. 3:8) He became a no thing, that is, not a self of his own, but a no thing. God the Father is uncreated, He is not a thing, He is invisible, immutable, and above everything, yet He is in all created things at the same time. He is personal and yet impersonal; He is out of time, and present in all time.

It is in not knowing that we know; It is in not
seeing that we see; It is in not having that we

have; It is in not being that we be; It is in not becoming something that we become Someone. "As having nothing, yet possessing all things" (II Cor. 6:10b).

How can you know such a paradoxical person? Certainly, not on your terms, but instead on His terms. You must be born again of His Spirit to know Him. Jesus said that He, the Spirit, is liken unto the wind, "The wind blows where it lists and thou hears the sound thereof, but cannot tell whence it comes and whither it goes; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). You simply can't harness God, He has you, He molds you, He calls you, He keeps you.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord/ or who has been His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be recompensed unto Him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things; to who be glory forever" (Rom. 11:32-36).

He knows you from your Mothers womb, He calls you by your name, He gives to you His nature, and asked nothing in return. Our part is to have nothing, know nothing, seek nothing, be nothing, and in return a special gift will be given to you. It is "The gift of "having nothing, yet possessing all things" (II Cor. 6:10). When you try to possess Him, He slips away, when we try to get Him, He is nowhere to be found; when we try to understand Him, He says, "not your business". You simply are

trying to capture God for your own use and pleasure. He will not be found that way. We don't have to get God, He gets us.

Just promise God one thing: Promise Him that He is not going to get one bit of help from you. And stick to it. God doesn't need your help, nor does He want to help you. He is, and therefore you are, and that is enough.

Sin consciousness is born out of a "DOING" and striving mentality. Christ consciousness is the gift of grace coming from above, and is pure rest, pure "BEING" nothing, yet becoming everything; knowing nothing, yet having the knowledge of all things; having nothing, yet possessing all things. This is freedom to be, you, but not you it is Christ being you, the true spontaneously you.

STUNDED BY THE LIGHT

"Awake thou that sleeps and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light" (Eph. 5:14). Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed you in heavenly places in Christ; According as He hath chosen you in Him before the foundation of the world, that you should be holy and without blame before Him in love; having predestinated you unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **to the praise of the glory** of His grace, wherein He hath made you accepted in the beloved; In whom you have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ; Wherein He has abounded toward you in all wisdom and prudence; In whom also

you have obtained an inheritance being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who works all things after the counsel of His own will: That we should be **to the praise of His glory**, After you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise which is the down payment of your inheritance until the redemption of purchased possession, **unto the praise of His glory** (Eph. 1:3-14). You are His possession, and He keeps who He owns. Rest in Him, bath in His love, drink of His blood and eat His body, and you shall live (John 6:57).

The Man of God

“When God wants to fill a man, and skill a man, and drill a man, when God wants to mold a man to play the noblest part, when He yearns with all his heart to create so great and bold a man that all the world will be amazed,

Watch his methods, watch his ways! How he ruthlessly perfects whom he royally elects, how he hammers him and hurts him, with mighty blows converts him into trial shapes of clay which only God understands, till his tortured heart is crying and he lifts beseeching hands. How He bends but never breaks when his good he undertakes, then how He uses whom He chooses, and with every purpose fuses him, by every act induces him to try his splendor out; God knows what He’s about.”

Author Unknown