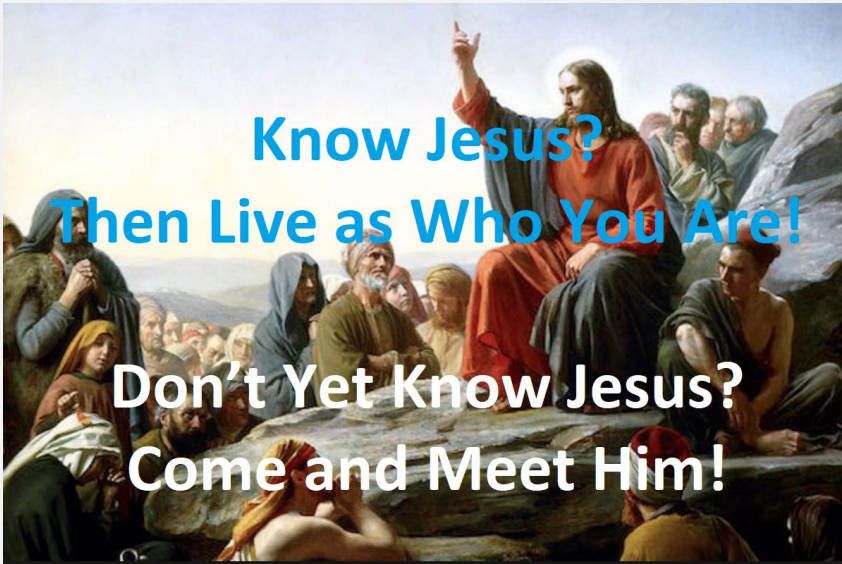


Ephesians 5:8-14 ESV



**Know Jesus?
Then Live as Who You Are!**

**Don't Yet Know Jesus?
Come and Meet Him!**

Saturday, 3/21 at 4:00 ✦ Sunday, 3/22 at 9:00

Fourth Sunday in Lent – 2020

We are still open; if you feel good and want to come, please do!

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: What is filling your mind today: panic OR peace? Answer the following to yourself:

- ✦ Did God create the heavens and the earth?
- ✦ Has God been sustaining the world since creation?
- ✦ Is the Bible God's Word?
- ✦ Does God have all things in His hands?
- ✦ Does God love us with an everlasting love?
- ✦ Has God brought us through every past difficulty?
- ✦ Will God carry us through our present difficulty?

In today's world, when many might answer "No" to those questions, **let us be certain that each answer is "Yes!"**

Today, in **Ephesians chapter 5**, God is calling us to ✦be who we are in Christ and ✦call others to repent!

At the beginning of **chapter 5**, Paul reminded the Ephesians of *Jesus' tremendous sacrifice by which He removed our sins!* In response, *he calls all believers to imitate God!* He also tells us – *as beloved children* – what we must avoid: ✦sexual sins, ✦impurity, and ✦greed. Then Paul told us why: “...everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous, has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.... [Then Paul added:] because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience” (vv. 5-6).

Now, *in today's sermon text*, Paul tells the Ephesians and us ✦what we were, ✦what we are now, and ✦how we should function as God's beloved children! Today's text is important ✓for us and ✓for all current **unbelievers**...

1. **Live as a Child of God:** ⁸ For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ ~~and try to discern [proving] what is pleasing~~ [well-pleasing, acceptable] to the Lord.
 - a. What we were: **Darkness!** That is the spiritual condition of those who do not yet know Jesus; *they are spiritually dark and spiritually dead*. We were the same – *before God reached down to us by His Spirit through His Word to make us His very own*.
 - b. What we are: **Light in the Lord!** We can turn on a light with a switch, *but ONLY GOD can turn on our spiritual light*. At the moment of our conception, we were darkness; however, *God worked through baptism to make us light in Him!*
 - c. Now what: **Live as God's children!** We are like a chip off the old block; therefore, *our lives should be characterized by the saying: Like Father, like son; that*

saying means that children often act just like their parents. What does it mean for us? We are to dig into the Bible to learn more about our Father in heaven, to discover what is good (how to show goodness in all its forms), right (how to show care for all others), true (how to be sincere in everything), and pleasing to Him. And then we seek to be like Him, to please Him – not to earn something from God, but to express our thanks! As we do so, God will also use us to point others to Jesus!

- Do Not Participate In Sin:** ¹¹ **Take no part in** [have no fellowship with, do not participate with] **the unfruitful works of darkness,** // Paul sets out a sharp contrast with these words from **Romans 7:** For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions... were at work... to bear fruit for death. But now... having died to that which held us captive... we serve in the new way of the Spirit” (Rom. 7:5-6 ESV). **James** put it this way: “From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree... bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works...” (Jas. 3:10-13 ESV).
- Point-Out Sin:** As ones who believe in Jesus, we should not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, **but instead expose them** [reprove them, show people they have done something wrong]. ¹² **For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.** // It’s shameful to **live** in sin; it is even shameful to **speak** about sin; however, here, God is telling us to shine the light of His Word upon sin –

so that people clearly know that what they are doing is against the Almighty God. Doing so is not easy, *but it is important*. People who see themselves as OKAY do not see their need for Jesus; however, by us shining the light, *the Spirit can show them their great need!*

4. **Call Sinners to Repent:** ¹³ **But when anything is exposed [reproved, made known] by the light, it becomes visible,** ¹⁴ **for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead [from among the dead ones, the spiritually dead ones], and Christ will shine on you.”** // God made us and loves us, so He wants everyone to **✦**see their sins, **✦**be sorry for their sins, and **✦**trust in Jesus for eternal life! Whenever we point out sins, *and people are sorry*, it is then vital to point them to Christ – *who took away the sin of the world!*

Conclusion: In today’s world, as people are fearful of illness and death, let us **✦**shine God’s light into our dark world, **✦**show people what is good, right, and true, **✦**call people to repent, and **✦**point people to Jesus!

This Week’s Challenge: Since sin brings death and Jesus is coming, let us turn from sin, point-out sin, and call people to repent!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, may You cause all unbelievers to panic over their sins, *and then to receive Your peace through Jesus!* Then, for all believers, move them to **✦**completely trust in You, **✦**know You are in control, and **✦**relax in Your almighty power!