



## ... Heart to Heart ...

Getting people out of spiritual darkness is most difficult. When God’s word speaks of spiritual darkness, it is described as a world of sin and separated from God. The worst part of spiritual darkness is that it blinds people. Jesus addressed a crowd of people telling them they were a wicked generation (Luke 11:29). He sent a resounding alarm, “*Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness*” (Luke 11:35). Jesus said on another occasion “*...he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes*” (John 12:35). Just like walking in a completely dark room, darkness blinds the eyes of those who are in it.

Paul reminded Titus, “**For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.**” (Tit. 3:3) People have to be exposed to light in order to see the darkness they live in. Darkness is a natural way for people to live their lives. Paul described spiritual darkness as: (1) *Foolish*: Eternal destruction awaits and most aren’t even aware of what’s coming to them. (2) *Disobedient*: It’s an unwillingness to be persuaded. It carries the idea of obstinate and rebellious. They can’t be persuaded they are wrong and they won’t listen. (3) *Deceived*: It’s one thing for people to deceive you, but to deceive yourself is a horror! (4) *Enslaved*: Under the control of something else, while not allowing you to realize it. That’s the danger of pleasures and lusts. (5) *Spending our life away*: In spiritual darkness your life revolves around malice, which is an eye for an eye or payback to those who have hurt you. We call it vengeance. Envy is a feeling of hurt and resentment toward someone. Hating and hateful are a major part of spiritual darkness. All these things create an environment of living day in and day out. This describes our world today.

God’s kindness and love is to get us out of spiritual darkness. Until one recognizes the mercy shown us, they will remain in spiritual darkness. The Holy Spirit brings about a renewing within (Tit. 3:5-6). God is not overhauling us or trying to chip away a few rough edges, but He wants to make us a completely new person, fashioned into His image. The result is we are made heirs “*according to the hope of eternal life.*” (Tit. 3:7) To possess salvation demands a change! Spiritual darkness must stop!

God’s kindness and mercy should awaken us spiritually to engage in good deeds, helpful things for the sake of others (Tit. 3:8,14). Spiritual life is to get us to realize to be subject to rulers, authorities, not to malign people but be gentle and peaceable, not protestors (Tit. 3:1-2).

Let’s remember our past spiritual condition, what God did for us and what we need to do to help. Think about it!!!

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