

Let there be light.... And there was light

1st – Let there be

2nd – and there was

Our attitude towards light is important

Characteristics of the True Church (Birth of a Reformation)

- An attitude receptive to any further truth and light. This safeguards against dogmatism and a spirit of infallibility and intolerance, against interpreting Christianity in the light of traditions and old ideas.

“Let There Be Light!” is a symbolic expression that really means, let there be understanding or enlightenment.

- Truth isn't always what we'd like it to be.

Pro 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Historical timeline

Song:

Brighter days are sweetly dawning, Oh the glory looms in sight
For the cloudy day is waning and the evening shall be light.

Oh what golden glory streaming, Purer light is coming fast
Now in Christ we found the freedom, which eternally shall last.

What has happened?

Quote: Not all who attend the institutional church are biblically illiterate. Many know the bible well, but have learned to interpret it as their denomination does. They have learned to defend the denominational position rather than the truth. What's worse they've allowed themselves to be deceived into believing that what has been taught to them, without exception, is the truth. Their doctrinal positions are fixed, like the denominations they belong to. By this we mean, they cannot or will not change them. A coal miner coming home in the dark is unaware of the coal dust that covers the exposed areas of his body because he can't see them. As he draws closer to the light he becomes increasingly conscious of these dirty areas. The more he sees the greater his need for cleansing. This same principle applies to our understanding of God's word. The closer we are drawn to the truth the more we realize our error.

Can we ever be too clean; can we ever claim we know the whole truth? God's truth comes as an unfolding revelation to our mind and heart. The wondrous adventure of it all is that it does not come complete and packaged for instant use but a little at a time. Our understanding of it grows with our maturity. We must never feel that we have it all or even that what we think we understand is complete and correct. We must be prepared to receive new light, allowing us to expand or change what we already have. All such additions or changes should be fully substantiated in the bible and not based on extra biblical knowledge, though often, extra biblical knowledge will support that which has been discovered in God's word. Much of what a denomination or for that matter, individual church, might teach may be good, even most of it, but whatever portion of it that remains in error will lie forever justified under a mountain of convoluted reasoning and half truths.

- We stopped seeking
 - Lord, save me from those who believe they are blessed with the knowledge of all truth and deliver me into the hands of those who still seek it.
-
- We became satisfied with our present standing
- We thought we had the answers. We didn't even know the questions.
- We became sectarian in spirit
- We misapplied scripture
 - Pro 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.
- What makes a sect, a sect?

Truth resisted builds hardness of heart.

Joh 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

2Tim 2:7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Luk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures

Mar 12:29-33 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Truth set us free.

- Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

When you know the truth, you owe the truth; we are responsible to live the truth we possess.