

Elder Vernon Johnson
Colors

Black - Knowledge of Salvation from Sin

In the scriptures there is a very strong correlation between the subject of sin and the color black or dark. Likewise, there is a strong correlation between the color white or light and the subject of righteousness. These correlations are used in the scriptures to illustrate what happens when a child of God comes to a knowledge of the salvation from sin. The following verses illustrate this to us:

1. Is. 9:1 "Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. 2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

2. Matt. 4:13 "And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: 14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; 16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."

3. Acts 26:15 "And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

4. 2 Cor. 4:5 "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

References 1 and 2 above are a prophecy and the fulfillment of that prophecy of the coming of Christ. In this prophecy, there is the description of a people who sat in darkness. These who were sitting in darkness suddenly saw a great light. The law condemns us and shows us that we are ruined vile sinners deserving of God's eternal

wrath. This is the darkness of God's people experience before they have the understanding of what Christ has done for them. The light of the gospel of Jesus Christ brings the people who were sitting in darkness to the understanding of what Christ has done for them in redeeming them from their sins. This indeed is a great light to see Christ as our redeemer.

Reference 3 brings us to Christ's appearing to Saul and calling him to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ informs Saul that he will turn the Lord's people from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God. This, of course, Saul would do by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. God's people before hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ are dwelling in the ignorance (darkness) of what Christ has done for them. Consequently, they see themselves as sinners under the judgmental wrath of God and deserving of eternal condemnation. The gospel brings the good news of what Christ has done for them and how he has delivered them from that eternal condemnation and given them eternal life. This delivers the child of God from darkness to light and delivers them from serving Satan to serving God.

Reference 4 compares the utility of the gospel in the heart of God's people to that work that God did in the morning of creation when he commanded the light to shine out of darkness. Likewise, God brings a child of God who is dwelling in darkness to see through the gospel light in his heart that Christ is there in his heart and has delivered him from his sins