

# SHINING EVER BRIGHTER

(No. 1113 – 5/22/16 - NLC)

**PROV. 4:18:** *The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*

## I. WE ARE ON A PATH

- A. *Path* = “well-trodden road” (many have gone before)
- B. Righteousness – through faith in Christ
- C. Life (Mat. 7:14 – narrow road)
- D. Purity (Ps. 119:9), straight (Ps. 27:11), etc.
- E. Heb. 12:1 – “race marked out for us”

## II. INCREASING LIGHT

- A. Begins as the first gleam of dawn, ends in blazing sunshine!
- B. AMP: “like the light of dawn, that shines more and more (brighter and clearer) until [it reaches its full strength and glory in] the perfect day.”
- C. God’s day starts with evening and ends in the morning (Gen. 1:5, 8, etc.)!
  - 1. God created in 6 days through a step-by-step process—He didn’t do it all at once (He could have)
  - 2. Each step, He paused and saw that His partially finished work was “good”—because He knew He would finish whatever He started and then it would be “very good” (Phil. 1:6)!!!
  - 3. **Ex. 23:29-30:** <sup>29</sup>*But I will not drive them [7 nations] out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. <sup>30</sup>**Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.***

## III. THE WORLD IS GETTING DARKER, THE CHURCH IS GETTING MORE GLORIOUS

- A. **Isa. 60:1-3:** <sup>1</sup>*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD*

*rises upon you and His glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

1. Thick, dense, gross darkness & depravity are descending on the unsaved (Rom. 1)
  - a) Charisma News (5/18/16): *12 Signs That a Cloud of Insanity Has Descended on the Land* (Sex Roulette Parties - someone secretly HIV+ & everyone engages in unprotected sex; eyeball tattoos & tongue splitting; transgender bathrooms)
  - b) Jesus predicted an increase in wickedness & lawlessness in the last days (Mat. 24:12-13)
  - c) 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 13-17 – “terrible times... go from bad to worse”
2. **BUT** the Lord rises upon you!
  - a) NOTE: Both the wheat & tares grow together until the end (Mat. 13:30)
  - b) **Mat. 5:13-16:** *<sup>13</sup>You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, **let your light shine** before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*
  - c) **Phil. 2:14-16:** *<sup>14</sup>Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault **in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine** like stars in the universe <sup>16</sup>as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.*
3. **Rom. 5:20:** *But where sin increased, **grace increased all the more.***
4. **Isa. 9:6-7** – “Of the increase of His government & peace there will be no end.”

5. **2 Cor. 3:18:** *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

#### **IV. THE PERFECT DAY IS NEAR**

- A. (Prov. 4:18 – path *ends* in full light, a perfect day)
- B. **Heb. 10:25:** *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you **see the Day approaching**.*
- C. **Rom. 13:11-14:** <sup>11</sup>*And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our **salvation is nearer now** than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The **night is nearly over**; the **day is almost here**. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*
- D. Stay on the path—though the process seems long, God is working and He is faithful to complete what He started!