

Children of the Day

Sunday, February 4, 2018
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Morris Plains, New Jersey

1 Thessalonians 5:5 – 8

⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

Introduction: In 1993 American culture was enriched by a motion picture that nearly everyone of us has likely seen several times. It's about a Pittsburgh television weatherman, Phil Connors who is tasked to do a human interest story about the bizarre ritual observed yearly in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania called, "Groundhog Day".

But Phil is a mean, selfish person, becomes trapped in a time loop that repeats the day again and again, and Phil is destined to relive it over and over until he learns the importance of kindness and generosity. It's a hilarious and yet poignant reminder that our days are limited and what we do in those days, echoes in eternity.

In On February 2nd, 2014 I departed New Jersey at 2:00 A.M for Punxsutawney, PA to see for myself, the Groundhog come out of its burrow at sunrise and tells us whether it could see its shadow or not, thus indicating a possible early spring or another six more weeks of winter.

I parked in the Walmart parking lot and took the shuttle bus up to “Gobbler’s Knob” where I joined 7,000 other crazy people standing shoulder to shoulder in mud up to our ankles in an light freezing rain, unable to move, as we waited for the ceremony for nearly an hour and 50 minutes.

The groundhog finally emerged informing the authorities that there would be six more weeks of winter and that he was going back into his burrow as only a crazy person would be out in this weather. A crazy way to spend a day? Very crazy! But how about you? What are you doing today after you leave church? Its superbowl Sunday. Will you be stuffing yourself while watching 22 men run up and down a field trying to kill each other for an inflated pig skin? And then watching television ads like they are epic stories? Will you be anticipating wardrobe malfunctions, someone forgetting the words to the national anthem, or a list of usually ageing performers trying to make some liberal political statement about how they think America should be? Laying aside superbowl Sunday, how do we spend our days?

How many days do you and I get to live?

The average American will live a total 27,375 days. We all too well, realize what a day means to us But what does that mean to God? What constitutes “day” in scripture?

For us “day” means:

- Light and not darkness
- Day denotes being awake and not sleep
- Conscience not unconsciousness
- Activity versus inactivity

For God, “Day” is a demarcation line where

- light dispels darkness
- It marks the place where God is at rest

The Bible says that God is light; therefore, light, is the place where God is - He is holy, pure, just, and merciful. Light is where we find those attributes. Where his nature is resides in absolute dominion over darkness

I. “For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ” (*1 Thess. 5: 5*)

A. “Day” reveals the difference between God (light) and fallen humankind (darkness).

1. I recall the first time I flew the Pacific in 1979. It was sunrise for several hours and I was served breakfast three times. It was as though we could not escape the dawn of day. So it is with those in Christ. One cannot escape the blessing and presence of Jesus the Daystar.

2. Jesus is the Word of the father appearing in human flesh

- ***John 1: 4,5***

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All

things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

- **Hebrews 1:3**

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

3. But if Christ is in you...then, through Christ - what he shares with the Father is what you and I can share with him and the Father.

- **John 17:20–23**

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

We usually speak about things we see, but God speaks of that which cannot be seen.

II. “So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.” (*1 Thessalonians 5:6*)

A. God saw...the light that it was good (*Genesis 1:3*)

1. It's not enough to simply we can see the light, we must “see” his light - that it is the only good light.
2. On Easter Sunday when Mary reported that Jesus had appeared to her, Peter and John ran to the tomb to “see” for themselves. But there are three different words in John 20 that are translated “see”.
 - a. *John 20:5* says that John looked in the tomb and “saw” the grave clothes laying there. The Greek word here is **βλέπω *blepō***,
To see (visually)
 - b. *John 20:6* Peter also sees Jesus’ grave clothes, and observes that the face cloth is folded at the head and the rest at the feet. The word there is **θεωρέω *theōreō*** (to intellectually comprehend) (I see) to “theorize” based on what is seen by the eyes.
 - c. *John 20:8* tells us that John then went into the tomb and he “saw”
But this time, the Greek word is **ὁράω *horaō***, which is not just seeing physically only. Nor is it simply comprehending intellectually,
But it is discovering what we see with our eyes and what rationalize with our minds should mean: and more importantly, what we should do about it. What did John do about it?
It says, “when he saw, he believed.”

3. God “saw” that the light was good. We must comprehend that God is with us bringing light and that all things will end well.

- Jesus asked the Pharisees about John the Baptist - “[what did you go to to see in the wilderness](#))
- **Hebrews 2:9** says “But we see Jesus crowned with glory and honor...”

III. But since [we belong to the day](#), let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

[\(1 Thessalonians 5:8\)](#)

A. Jesus does not just create light, he is light!

1. **[\(1 John 1: 5\)](#)** “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
2. **[2 Peter 1:19](#)**

“And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,”

3. God simply opens eternity and allows himself (Jesus, by the Holy Spirit) to shine into our universe.

Conclusion

“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” ([2 Corinthians 6:2](#))

