

## Fifty Million in the Dark



On August 14, 2003 a major power outage struck the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada. It was the largest power outage in history and affected an area of close to 9,300 square miles of some of the most populated areas in North America. People became trapped in elevators, traffic lights didn't function at rush hour, and vendors watched helplessly as food spoiled from lack of refrigeration.

At night, cities whose lights usually shone so brightly that they were visible from hundreds of miles away in outer space were blacked out by the loss of power. For city dwellers many activities became extremely difficult or even impossible as they tried to manage in the dark.

For fifty million people who were in the complete darkness that night it was a time they shall never forget. Fifty million people were in physical darkness due to the power outage.

But millions upon millions of souls are in spiritual darkness because they have either not heard the truth of the gospel, or they have heard it and declined to receive its gracious offer of life.

Refusing the good news of the gospel, they have refused the only message that ever could bring light into their lives. I am the light of the world: he that believes on me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.

It is only through the light that is in the Lord Jesus that we are enabled to see ourselves way we truly are before God. By it we are enabled to see ourselves as sinners under the just condemnation of a righteous God. Because we are sinners unable to help ourselves we can see for the first time that we are in dire need of a Savior.

Also, in the light of the Lord Jesus, we can see clearly the wonderful grace of God. His grace led him to send his Son into this world where he would eventually be nailed to the cross and die in the sinners place. In ancient times, when a king or a ruler showed one of his subjects favor and gave them a gift it was considered an act of grace. At the cross, the supreme ruler of the universe opened his heart to you and me and gave the greatest gift he could

possibly give. He gave his Son. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth on him would not perish but have everlasting life.

In contrast to the death our sins so richly deserve, God made a way we might have eternal life. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. God gives eternal life as a gift to every one who believes on his Son. Eternal life is something that every one who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ possesses. He that hath the Son hath life. And nothing in heaven or earth can ever dispossess them of that gift.

Has the light of the glorious gospel of Gods grace shone in your heart? Have you seen yourself as God sees you and because of that sight sought refuge in the Savior? Until you do you will be wandering about in spiritual darkness for the Lord Jesus is the Light of the world and apart from him there is nothing but darkness.

When the power grid in Northeastern America failed it was a painful calamity for millions of people. However, far worse is the calamity of a single soul that never comes to the Jesus Christ for salvation. For when this lifetime is over that soul will have to spend eternity in the darkness of hell. How long is eternity? When millions of black nights have come and gone eternity will just be beginning. Make no mistake about it. Eternity is forever. According to Jude, lost souls are like Wandering stars to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

The sadness of having to spend eternity in the darkness of hell will make them weep and gnash their teeth. Oh what a future awaits those who never come to Christ. The saddest fact by far about it all is that no one needs to perish. The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Lights and power supplies built by man may fail and leave us in the dark but the light that shines in the Lord Jesus will never go out. He shines true for every sinner who wants to trust him for salvation. His light illuminates every saved one as they go about their lives in a world that rejected him. His light will chase away the gloom when it comes time to die so that every believer can die full of hope and anticipation of soon seeing their master. And after they die they can enter the heavenly city where there is no need of the sun for the Lord Jesus will be the light of the place. Lights and power supplies, stars and suns, all may fail but the Light that is in Jesus will never go out!

Hasnt the time you have spent in your life wandering in sins darkness been long enough to prove the dissatisfaction and emptiness of a life apart from God? Oh wont you come to him who said, I am the light of the world so that you might glory in his light for time and eternity?

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