

BELLEFIELD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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*God's Most
Glorified in Us
When We're Most
Satisfied in Him*

Bellefield.org

Dear BPC Family & Friends,
Today, I open the sermon with a personal story, something that happened to me in 7th grade when I was reading Bram Stoker's classic scary novel, *Dracula*. That book is all about darkness. The Lord Jesus is all about light. That book is all about a brooding darkness that can take over its victims with almost an addictive yielding and desire. Our culture isn't all that different in its deceptive offerings. It can, in a sense, drain the blood out of anyone who keeps opening their window to allow its entrance. Thankfully, the grace of God in Christ pours sight into us to see past such darkness into a walking in the light of the Savior. The result? Thanksgiving.

7.A Checklist of Abundant Grace, not a Checklist of Works Righteousness

Ephesians 5:14b
"Therefore it says,
'Awake, O sleeper, and
arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine
on you.'" Martin
Luther said,
"Although I am an
unworthy & con-
demned man, my
God has given me
in Christ all the
riches of right-



eousness and salvation
without any merit on my
part, out of pure, free
mercy.... Why should I
not therefore freely, joy-
fully, with all my
heart and with an
eager will do all
things which I
know are pleasing
to such a Father?"
Martin Luther knew &
loved the gospel of grace.

Bellefield Presbyterian Church

Sermon Helps

Happy Thanksgiving

Sunday, the Lord's Day, November 22,

Fall Focus on *Ephesians*, Part 9:

"Let There Be Thanksgiving"— Out from Darkness into Light

Ephesians 5:1-16

Here is a
movement for the
Christian soul and
the Christian
church from dark-
ness to light. The
Word of God
clearly cites cer-
tain behaviors all
Christians should
leave behind.
Then, when their
replacements are
called for, the



May God bless your holiday.

Holy Spirit in-
spires the Apostle
Paul to say that
instead of such
dark things, "Let
there be thanks-
giving." Huh.

Today's 7 Sermon Moves @ a Glance

1. A checklist
against the
darkness:
what's got to
go?
2. A checklist for
the light:
what's got to
come into our
lives;
3. The checklist
for light—so
why gratitude?
4. Evaluating the
checklist: the
grateful versus
the covetous;
5. How do we
actually accom-
plish the
checklist?
6. The way of
grace: Jesus
said, "If you
love me...."
7. So: it's a check-
list of the grace
of the gospel.

"Turn on the Lights of Christ!"

God expects us
Christians to turn
on our Christ
lights for our cul-
ture, rather than

succumbing to the
persuasive dark-
ness of our times.
We look to the
light of Jesus here.

1. A Checklist against the Darkness: What's Got to Go?

Ephesians 5:3-4b
 “But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk



Do not walk in darkness.

nor crude joking, which are out of place...” Let’s look at 3 of these areas of cultural darkness that are to leave us: a) *immorality*; b) *covetousness*; c) *filthiness* and *flippancy*.

2. A Checklist for the Light: What's Got to Come into Our Lives

Ephesians 5:4— “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but in-

Would you expect that the replacement for such darkness would be thanksgiving?

stead let there be thanksgiving.” If you take something out, you put something in to fill the void.

3. The Checklist: Why's Gratitude Come?

Simply, sexual immorality is driven by covetousness, a craving that makes you want more than you



God is for you.

should want. So its opposite is thanksgiving— what you feel when you believe God is for you, not against you, when you trust Him and His gifts.

4. Evaluating the Checklist: the Grateful Versus the Covetous Darkness

Ephesians 5:5
 “For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an

idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” Here God’s Word goes right to the heart of the darkness: all these covetous

behaviors indicate an *idolater*.



Who do your acts enthrone?

5. How to Accomplish the Checklist?

Ephesians 5:3
 Here God’s Word notes such darkness “must not even be named among

you, as is proper among saints.” Also, again, 5:4 says such dark behaviors “are out of place.” Can we

see that this is gospel and not legalism?

Paul is appealing for us to be renewed in the spirit of our minds.

6. “If You Love Me, You Will Keep...”



& He does U

Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will keep my commandments.”

His summons is always first to Himself, to be in love with the light that is He. Only then does the task arrive:

obedience. The “how” of accomplishing the moral checklist is the light of His grace poured into us in His love.