**Ephesians 5 (John 3)**

The Fight For Our Nation

**4 – LET THERE BE LIGHT**

**Ephesians 5:8–11 (NKJV)** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), **10** finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. **11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

**THE WORLD WE LIVE IN BEGAN IN DARKNESS**

**Genesis 1:1–2 (NLT)** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

**GOD SHATTERED THE DARKNESS AND BROUGHT LIGHT BY SPEAKING**

**Genesis 1:3** **(NLT)** Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

**Psalm 119:130 (NKJV)** The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

**BUT EVER SINCE THE SIN OF ADAM, PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN TO WALK IN DARKNESS**

**1 John 5:19 (NLT)** We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

**THERE ARE MANY WICKED THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR NATION**

**John 3:19–20 (ESV)** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

1. **I DON’T KNOW WHAT’S TRUE AND WHAT’S NOT TRUE, BUT WE NEED TO PRAY THAT GOD SHINES THE LIGHT ON ALL CORRUPTION ­­… EXPOSES IT … AND ELIMINATES IT**

**John 1:5 (NLT)** The light **[of Jesus]** shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

**BUT THAT’S NOT ALL WE NEED TO DO … WE NEED … AND IT’S NOT EVEN THE MOST IMPORTANT**

1. **JESUS CAME TO BRING LIGHT TO THIS WORLD**

**John 12:46 (ESV)** I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

1. **WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT GOD DELIVERS US FROM ALL DARKNESS**

**John 8:12 (NKJV)** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

**1 John 1:5–7 (NKJV)** This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**1 John 1:9 (NKJV)** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Ephesians 5:8 (NLT)** For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!

1. **WE NEED TO ARISE AND SHINE WITH THE LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD**

**Isaiah 60:1–4 (NKJV)** Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. **2** For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. **3** The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. **4** “**Lift up your eyes all around, and see:** They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side.

**John 4:35 (NKJV)** Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you**, lift up your eyes and look at the fields**, for they are already white for harvest!

**Matthew 5:13–16 (NKJV)** “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. **14** “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Acts 26:16–18 (NLT)** Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future. **17** And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles **18** to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me.’