

In the midst of growing darkness, our lights are to be all the more illuminating!



*20Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:20-21*

## **Darkness & Light**

It's pretty obvious that the world is becoming a more and more dark place-- especially as the global powers are attempting to push God out of the culture (see Psalm 2:1-3). In Avner Boskey's recent update email, he listed an astute litany of the current problems:

**The astounding growth of evil in our day is manifest for all to see:**

- *rioting in the streets (anarchists, leftists, post-Panthers, neo-Nazis, etc.)*
- *the total collapse of biblical ethics in foundational family areas (marriage covenants, sexual ethics, abortion, and practices that the Bible never even got around to describing)*
- *the mushrooming growth of corporate fascism joined to pervasive propagandistic media*
- *the corruption of formerly trustworthy social pillars in the political, medical and media spheres, leading to unprecedented social control and manipulation*
- *the worldwide spread of economic slavery, something forcefully condemned by both the Hebrew prophets and even by Bob Dylan in his 'Union Sundown'*
- *the swelling power of totalitarianism through thought manipulation, personal identity tracking, and civil liberty curtailment à la 1984, Brave New World, and modern China's QR code systems*
- *the burgeoning geopolitical power grabs of resurgent Communist superpowers (China and Russia) and Islamist jihadi terrorist forces (like Iran, the Muslim Brotherhood/ Ikhwan, ISIS, Afghanistan, etc.)*

But in the midst of such present challenges (and certainly with more to come) there are benefits that I believe we would be wise to focus on. Also, this list is by no means exhaustive! First of all, the Scriptures state that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more." (Romans 5:20-21) God will break in all the more abundantly as the individual and global sin problem continues to fester and grow. In watching a very good movie about C.S. Lewis's conversion (*The Reluctant Convert*) based on his book *Surprised by Joy*, I was so moved by Lewis's opening statement on initially why he was not a Christian that I took fifteen minutes to dictate it out word for word. It gave me encouragement in my interactions with a couple of present agnostic friends that YHWH is well able to break in with them as He did with Lewis. God is going to break in again in a great way.

Secondly, it gives us an opportunity to step up to a place of embracing the necessity of suffering for the sake of staying true to Yeshua and His

Word. This is a new one for me, but I'm looking at the verses and praying that I will be faithful as the stakes get higher to be a light and take a stand against the darkness surrounding and attempting to smother us.

Thirdly, it gives us fresh impetus on the importance of real connection and biblical community. Our perception of church is shifting world-wide as we wrestle with what "being the church" actually looks like. We're not going to make it on our own (and were never designed to do so either). Our challenges are meant to push us into deeper relationships with one another.

Finally, it gives us greater compulsion to grow in the "Maranatha" cry in our hearts hungering for the Lord's return. He has given us abundant information related to the time of His return and the Scriptures are replete with examples that this future hope/reality (of His return) is intended to bolster us in walking in a present manner pleasing to Him. This has been a surprising revelation that I've discovered and had grow in the last couple of years.

So in conclusion dear saints, let's not curse the darkness but let's prepare ourselves to be lights in these dark places. As Steve Wignins penned in one of his songs, "All the darkness in the world can't hold back the light of the smallest flame." Let's be a flame for God in the situations around us this week.