

“Exposing the Darkness”
Acts 4:23-31

Genesis 15:16

“Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

1 Thessalonians 2:15,16

They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

“His expression is to be noted as implying that those who continue to do wrong fill up in this way the measure of their judgment until they reach a climax. This is why the punishment of the ungodly is often postponed – it is because their acts of ungodliness are so to speak not yet ripe. This provides us with a warning. If we are continually adding sin to sin, we must take great care that our accumulation of sins may not finally reach to heaven itself, as usually happens.”

- John Calvin

Isaiah 5:20

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil. Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness. Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

Jeremiah 5:9

“Shall I not punish these people, declares the Lord. And on a nation such as this, shall I not avenge Myself?”

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed.” - A.J. Gordon

I. The Early Church

A. The Setting

B. Reunion with Fellow-Believers

C. A Prayer Meeting

1. How they Prayed

2. How God Answered their Prayers

II. Lessons Learned from Early Church

A. Reminded of Spiritual Battle

B. Christians are to Expose the Darkness

Ephesians 5:6-11

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them

Rosa Parks didn't wake up one day and decide to become the "first Lady of Civil Rights." She just boarded a bus as she did every day for work and decided that this day she wasn't going to sit in the back as a proper black person was expected to do in the 1950s in Montgomery, Alabama. She knew who she was and what she wanted. She knew the cost, and she made the decision to pursue what she believed in enough to sacrifice her own security. - Michael Horton

"We should not underestimate the significance of the small group of people who have a new vision of a just and gentle world. The quality of a culture may be changed when 2 percent of its people have a new vision." - Robert Bellah

There are many more than 2 percent Christians in your country and mine. Then why aren't we having more effect? Why aren't we having more influence? I pray that God will call you to permeate non-Christian society for Christ, to take your stand there uncompromisingly with the value system and moral standards of Jesus.

- John Stott

