

# LIGHTS OUT! – PART 2

## TAKE BACK THE TERRITORIES

Isaiah 60:2 (KJV) - For, behold, the **darkness** shall cover the earth, and **gross darkness** the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV) - <sup>14</sup> **You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ragtag Jewish force fanned out across a hill twelve miles outside of Jerusalem at a place called Adasa. Comprised mostly of farmers, priests, and craftsmen, and poorly armed, they numbered no more than a few hundred. Their leader, a rural priest named Judas Maccabeus (**Picture of Judas Maccabeus**) - (known to his followers as “The Hammer”) looked across the jagged valley at the well-trained forces of the Seleucid Greeks.

The Greek General Nicanor and more than nine thousand battle-hardened soldiers were arrayed against the Jewish rebels. The year was 161 BC.

This impending battle had been triggered by some of the Jews’ refusal to be “Hellenized”—absorbed into the culture of the conquering Greeks. The Greeks worshipped many gods. The Jews, only one. The Greeks had a very loose moral code. The Jews, a very strict and detailed one. It was an irreconcilable clash of worldviews.

The final straw had come a few weeks earlier when the Greek emperor, Antiochus, erected an idol in the Holy Temple—demanding that a Jewish priest sacrifice a pig on the altar in the Most Holy Place and that all the priests bow down to the idol. When a priest was finally found who was willing to commit the abominable sacrifice, Judas killed him on the spot. He then took a hammer and smashed the face of the idol (earning himself a nickname)—then fled to the hills with his small band of resistors.

The valley that now stood between Judas’s men and the Greek army was the very one that Joshua had used thirteen centuries earlier to pursue the fleeing Amorite kings in the Battle of Gibeon. Perhaps it was the memory of that glorious, God-given victory that filled the rebel hearts with courage as they poured down the hill that day. For before the sun had set, the Greek force had been defeated and scattered. General Nicanor had been among the first of a thousand Greeks to fall.

Today I intend to be a “hammer” in the hands of the Holy Spirit to smash the idols of our culture and turn the hearts of every person back toward God, believing Him for another great awakening in our culture!... IN THE MIDST OF A CULTURE THAT IS CALLING FOR CHRISTIANS TO

**TURN THEIR LIGHTS OUT AND LET DARKNESS PREVAIL...I AM PROPHETICALLY CALLING FOR EVERY BORN-AGAIN CHILD OF THE KING TO TURN THEIR LIGHT ON...Let's Pray...**

In the eighteenth century, a generation fought for America's independence from British rule. In the nineteenth century, a generation fought to preserve the Union from those who would tear it asunder. In the twentieth century, a generation fought to defend democracy from the forces of tyranny and oppression in both Europe and the Pacific. **In the twenty-first century, a generation will fight for the preservation and propagation of a culture based on truth!**

Turning our backs on the culture is a betrayal of our biblical mandate and our own heritage because it denies God's sovereignty over all of life. Nothing could be deadlier for the church or more ill-timed. To abandon the battlefield now is to desert the cause and the belief in the words of our Lord who promised to pour His Spirit out on all flesh in the last days. We cannot give up our hope and our appeal to heaven for God to do what He said he would in our day...

In this day of dreaded darkness covering the earth and gross darkness covering the people (as Isaiah the prophet proclaimed), we must... **Turn the light on!**

- Turn it on starting in the church house!
- Turn it on in your house!
- Turn it on in our schoolhouse!
- Turn it on in our White House...

Make no mistake, many on the other side hate us and despise everything we stand for. But regardless, our biblical mandate is to love and bless in return. Challenge them? Yes. Argue for the superiority and accuracy of our worldview? You see, **When worldviews collide, nations hang in the balance!** **Here in lies the source of the great conflict, competing worldviews...**

Because worldviews are pertinent to every person's life—the way we think and the way we act—and because virtually all worldviews promise salvation or utopia, the study of worldviews is of critical importance. In his book, "Future Shock", Alvin Toffler described them as the "mental model of the world" each of us carries in his head.

- When singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow, referring to the expected U.S. invasion of Iraq, says, "I think war is based in greed and there are huge karmic retributions that will follow. I think war is never the answer to solving any problems. The best way to solve problems is to not have enemies," she's giving us some insight into her worldview.
- When the late science writer Carl Sagan declared, "The Cosmos is all there is or ever was or ever will be,"<sup>3</sup> he made clear the cornerstone of his worldview too.

- When Peter Singer, current holder of the prestigious Ira DeCamp Professorship in Bioethics at Princeton University, writes, “Human babies are not born self-aware, or capable of grasping that they exist over time. They are not persons,” and writes that “animals are self-aware,” and therefore, “the life of a newborn is of less value than the life of a pig, a dog, or a chimpanzee,” he is revealing quite a bit about his worldview as well.

Why is all this important...Because most Christians don't know or understand the conflicting worldviews with the Biblical Worldview. They don't comprehend that people behave because of belief!

The real question is, are our worldviews based upon accurate assumptions or false ones?

Worldview is destiny, for individuals and for civilizations. But at the most basic level, at the core of every worldview, is an answer (right or wrong) to one key question: Who (or what) is God? Or, put another way, who is mankind's Messiah?

Current Worldviews:

### 1. Humanism: Man = God

- By their own definition, humanists are those who believe in the primacy of the human being.
- The original Humanist Manifesto was written in 1933 by Unitarian minister Raymond Bragg
- *Today man's larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievements, and deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion. Such a vital, fearless, and frank religion capable of furnishing adequate social goals and personal satisfactions may appear to many people as a complete break with the past. While this age does owe a vast debt to the traditional religions, it is nonetheless obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for today must be shaped for the needs of this age. To establish such a religion is a major necessity of the present.*
- Humanists, although overwhelmingly atheist or agnostic, are not a people without a messiah. Their savior is humanity itself. As Humanist Manifesto II declares: “Humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”
- Of course, humanist ideas weren't a twentieth-century invention. They go back a little farther—as far as the Garden of Eden. Professor Herbert Schlossberg has written, “Eve was the first humanist.” He was referring to the appeal the serpent made to Eve's pride when he said, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:4–5).”

- The universe is self-existing, not created. As a result man is a part of nature and has emerged as a result of the continuous process -> science is the only proper tool for understanding who we are and our part in nature.

## 2. Marxism / Statism: Government = God

- **Put up Pic of Karl Marx**
- Humanism shares a common intellectual ancestry and many common assumptions with the worldview that bears the name of Karl Marx (1818–83).
- Marx was an atheist long before he was a socialist or the ideological father of modern communism. **In fact, his rejection of God was the starting point and foundation of everything else he came to espouse.** This militant atheism is one of several attributes Marxism shares with its cousin, secular humanism.
  - Marx’s atheism was inspired by the contemporary German philosopher Ludwig Feuerbach.
- Marx gave his name to a radical form of socialism that rejects the notions of private property, free enterprise, and personal responsibility upon which capitalism is built.
- Marx saw himself as a champion of the poor, exploited working classes. With the conviction of a prophet, he believed natural and economic forces were moving history toward a predetermined end—a series of upheavals, or revolutions, that would result in “the dictatorship of the proletariat.”
  - **In other words, he foresaw a utopia, or paradise on earth, in which there would be no extremes of poverty or wealth, no rich ruling class, and each person’s labor would be filled with purpose and dignity as it served the greater “collective” good of society.**
  - To Europe’s millions of hardworking poor in the early stages of the industrial revolution—particularly in places like czarist Russia—that all looked pretty attractive on paper. But of course, Marxism hasn’t worked out quite so well for common folks in actual practice!
  - **It is conservatively estimated that in a mere handful of decades, more than 20 million people in the former Soviet Union died in Lenin’s and Stalin’s political purges, government-induced famines, and the infamous gulags. In China, as Mao took Marx’s theology and used it as a road map for a “Cultural Revolution” and “The Great Leap Forward”—upwards of 60 million people either starved or were killed. In Vietnam, more than 850,000 died in “reeducation camps” after the withdrawal of the American military presence.**
- **Recent research has estimated the twentieth century’s “victims of communism” at more than one hundred million in number.**
- All this misery and heartache was made possible, in fact inevitable, by the underlying assumptions of the Marxist worldview.

- One of those key assumptions is that religious belief is a major obstacle to the creation of a “workers’ paradise” and thus must be stamped out at all cost.
- Because Marxism rejects the biblical view of man as fallen, sinful, and in need of redemption, it carries the opposite assumption—that man is basically good and perfectible. It is man’s environment—the system in which he lives—that makes him selfish and brutish. Therefore, Marx and friends reasoned, absolute power to control man’s environment had to be vested in the government. As long as any power, property, or freedom of choice remained with the individual, utopia could never be created.
- **That’s why wherever Marxism has been planted in fertile soil, tyranny has bloomed – and it is blooming in America right now!**
- Name any current social ill and you’ll find a chorus of voices crying for greater “investment” on the part of government, more “programs,” increased “regulation,” and, of course, better “education” to increase “awareness.”

### 3. Materialism / Naturalism: The Cosmos = God

- Our world is morally upside down. We preserve nature but abort babies. We have developed the technology to build strong, solid houses, but have weak, sick homes. We are smarter but no wiser, and we know more but understand less. We go faster, but we get nowhere. We have conquered space, but our habits have conquered us. We rescue the whales and the whooping cranes, but neglect and abuse our own children. At the root of it all is materialism.
- When philosophers and theologians talk about materialism, however, they’re referring to a belief system that claims the material universe is all there is. In other words, there is no unseen spiritual realm that lies beyond the physical world. Carl Sagan was making a confident profession of materialism when he said, as noted above: **“The Cosmos is all there is or ever was or ever will be.”**
- **His statement seems to be a deliberate mirror of the Bible’s triple declaration that God is He “who is and who was and who is to come” (Revelation 1:4; 1:8; 4:8). In mimicking the Bible’s language about God, Sagan was pointing us to a key aspect of the materialist worldview. He was saying, “Don’t look for God or anything else outside of a physical, measurable, scientifically comprehensible universe. Because that’s all there is.”**

### 4. Postmodernism / Nihilism: “Whatever” = God

- The word postmodernism obviously implies that we are post (or beyond) the era of modernism. The modernism referred to is that brief period of rapid innovation and discovery at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. It was a time in which it seemed that science and reason would solve every problem, overcome every challenge, and make heaven on earth possible. It is characterized by an earnest, optimistic faith in the “inevitability of progress.”
- Postmodern thinking is generally characterized by these two related assumptions:

- **It is impossible to know what is “true.”** Neither religion nor science can tell you what is real or right. We can’t “know” anything with certainty.
- **Logic and reason can lead you only to what is true for you.** You can’t impose your truth on anyone else. All truth is relative, and no person’s truth is superior to another’s.
- This is why you frequently hear postmodernists label people who hold a biblical worldview “intolerant. Because the Christian believes in absolute truth.
- The Bible speaks to this sort of reasoning in Romans 1:22: “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools . . .” It would be a foolish person indeed that would subscribe to this sort of vain babbling.
- The postmodern train of thought has a permanent stop at the end of the line. It’s a dark place called nihilism. **The American Heritage Dictionary defines nihilism in this way:**
  - **An extreme form of skepticism that denies all existence.** A doctrine holding that all values are baseless and that nothing can be known or communicated.
  - **Rejection of all distinctions in moral or religious value and a willingness to repudiate all previous theories of morality or religious belief.**
- **Postmodern thought has so completely infused the world of academics and education...**

## **5. New Age Monism / Pantheism: Everything = God**

- In one ditch you have the atheistic worldviews of humanism, naturalism, and postmodernism—declaring God does not exist, or if He does, He is unknowable. On the opposite side of the road of truth, you’ll find the ditch of monism and pantheism.
- Monistic religions and philosophies (e.g., Hinduism, Buddhism, and many of the current flavors of New Age mysticism) assert that **God is in everything - God is everything.**
  - All matter, energy, spirit, and everything composed of these elements are simply part of a cosmic Oneness.

**Please understand, I’m not trying to turn you into a philosopher. I do hope to inspire you to be a force for restoration in our culture. I have no interest in your becoming a history professor, but I do have a passion for helping you become a formidable advocate for truth.**

As I hope you are seeing, this is not a conflict of guns, but of ideas; one in which the fight is for institutions, not territory; hearts, not hills. It is a clash of paradigms, value systems, and visions of the future—a war for the soul of our nation.

In the face of this conflict, the response recommended by some in the body of Christ has simply been: **retreat**. “If the country is determined to go to hell in a handbasket, let it,” seems to be the attitude. “As long as we’re free to worship as we choose, who cares what they do?” others say. In other words, we just want to be left alone to play church and sing happy songs as the culture crumbles around us, sin ravages whole generations, and tens of millions face a godless eternity.

This retreat-and-circle- the-wagons approach is impossible to reconcile with the revealed Word—or heart—of God. Yet in many ways, retreat we have. **I refuse to participate in retreat.**

For far too long we have surrendered the great universities—the historic talent pools and recruiting grounds for our nation’s CEOs, ambassadors, senators, and presidents. We have abandoned vast stretches of the field of art and the humanities. The same is true to varying degrees in the realms of science, business, and media. So, what is the answer?

### **TURN THE LIGHT ON!**

There are a lot of prophetic reasons to believe that those alive during the final days of history will see the most powerful and glorious moves of God ever witnessed. We are told that Jesus is returning, not for a defeated, cowering Bride, hiding from the culture behind a calloused heart, but for a glorious one without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27).

Hebrews 10:12-13 speaks of that profoundly significant moment in which the risen, ascended Christ took His seat of authority at the right hand of the Father: **But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.** (Hebrews 10:12–13, emphasis added)

- This passage suggests that Jesus is waiting to see something before He stands to His feet, marshals His heavenly myriads of angels, and brings history to a dramatic and predestined close. He is waiting to see His church—empowered by His Spirit, and directed by the Great Commission—walking in dominion over His enemies.
- We are Jesus’ feet on this earth. And it is time to win for Christ that footstool for which He continues to wait.
- **Victory will not come if we remain sheltered behind the four walls of the sanctuary. We must be prepared to confront false worldviews in every sphere of human activity and make a compelling argument for the truth of our biblical view.**

We must invade every sphere of influence and **TURN THE LIGHT ON!**

- The home
- Religion
- Education
- Media
- The Arts and Entertainment
- Sports
- Commerce, Science and Technology

- Government and Politics

## TURN THE LIGHT ON!

### Conclusion:

**Psalm 22:30 (KJV) – A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.**

Our heavenly Father is looking for a remnant of believers today who are willing to be the seed for this generation. If He can find a seed willing to make a sacrifice for their peers, He will reap a harvest of an entire generation, and we will see the transforming power of God at work in every area of our culture. God gave us the perfect example by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. In a similar way, we are that seed for our generation. But we have not “been accounted to the Lord for a generation,” because, very simply, we have refused to die.

**The Moravian Christians** were a persecuted Protestant minority in Central Europe before there was any such thing as a Protestant. One hundred years before Martin Luther, the Moravians rejected many of the abuses and errors of Rome and pursued a simple faith of worship and charity. As a result, they were severely persecuted, and they suffered great hardship. **Nevertheless, they are marked by history for their extraordinary compassion, their service, and above all, their passion for souls.**

In the early 1700s, Moravians began coming to the New World. Some came because they were escaping persecution or because they were being forced from their homes. Others were compelled by a powerful missionary impulse. For example, some saw the swelling population of slaves being transported to the colonies in the Americas and wondered how these poor souls might be reached for Christ.

The treatment of slaves everywhere in the New World was appalling, but in the West Indies it was especially so. The seemingly endless supply of fresh slaves available from Africa convinced Caribbean plantation owners that they didn’t need to provide any care for their slaves at all. They literally worked them to death and ordered replacements. It was this group of shackled and shamed humanity that the Moravians desired to reach. But how? **Their solution was to sell themselves into slavery. The only way to reach the slaves was to become one of them.** They were aware that such a decision would result in ridicule, in harsh conditions and even harsher treatment, and could mean death. Yet they did so with willing hearts.

On October 8, 1732, a Dutch ship left Copenhagen harbor bound for the Danish West Indies. On board were two Moravian missionaries: **John Leonard Dober, a potter; and David**



Nitschman, a carpenter. Both were on their way to sell themselves into slavery to reach the slaves of the West Indies.

As the ship slipped away, they looked to their friends and loved ones at the dock and lifted up a cry that would ring in the ears of future generations of Moravian missionaries, "May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering!"

**Some historians estimate that eighty thousand slaves came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the efforts of Moravian missionaries.** They were seeds, willing to fall into the ground and die, that their King might receive the harvest of a generation. They understood what many of us do not. We are placed on this earth for this fleeting wisp of time not to be comfortable, but to comfort; not to be served, but to serve; to bring glory to God, not ourselves.

John 1:5 - And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.