

Colossians 1:13-20

“Gift of God”

November 20, 2016

God uses symbols to communicate to us His eternal truth. One of the symbols used in our text is the contrast between light and darkness. The light represents the good and the dark represents the evil. For a short time I watched professional wrestling because I wondered what intrigued so many people. I saw them play out the contrast between good and evil. Many times evil wrestlers won but in the end the wrestlers representing good won out. Of course the good wrestlers had to be beaten up and seem to be losing before they ultimately triumphed.

We see the same thing happening in the movies. Certain actors and actresses are seen as representing good and other actors and actresses play the evil villains. It use to be those good actors wore white hats in the westerns and the evil actors were represented by the black hats. Of course the really professional actors and actress would try to cross the line and play a part opposite their character they had built up. So the good would play an evil person and the evil would play a good person. Just going to the movies can tell you if we are looking at good or evil movie by the darkness in the movie.

Sadly we also see this in life. Our world has come to see the contrast between good and evil as a contrast between a dull life and an exciting life. Let's go out and have fun means many things in our society. Let's go out and have fun may mean to some go and do drugs, get drunk, or have sex. These are all that God tells us is wrong. Let's go out and have fun means for some drive recklessly, stay up past our curfew and other exciting but sometime illegal things. Of course we could change the laws and allow it to happen like we are changing the marijuana laws. Laws are there to protect others as well as our self. Of course they just want to have fun, or a thrill, or to violate the boundaries established by society. Therefore life is about satisfying their needs, wants and desires. However, others often pay a price.

God wants us to have fun in life, but not at His expense or the expense of others. Remember Philippians 4 "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice." Go to God with praise and thanksgiving. I could go on and on about how our God wants us to feel good about our lives. In contrast, the world and the evil side brings us guilt and fear. In contrast the world and the evil side bring us rebellion. In contrast, the world and the evil side brings us the consequences of our words and our actions. When a drunk driver wipes out some or all of a family while driving, who can bring that the family back. This week I received an E-Mail from someone who was saying the drugs are addictive because of a place in the brain that makes

them addictive. That may be but so much hurt and pain comes from addiction. Someone has to stop making excuses and say no! Even before we try it and find out our brain is wired for addiction, someone has to say no! They also said this week that drug deaths now exceed deaths due to cancer in the United States. Drug deaths are now the leading cause of death in America.

The Lord saw our selfish and self-centered ways and He had a plan to help us find peace and hope. The Lord saw our selfish and self-centered ways and He came to us with the hope that comes from God's undeserved grace and mercy. God did not tell us to come to Him and find that peace and hope. Instead God came to us with that undeserved grace and mercy through the sacrifice of His Son the Savior Jesus Christ. While we struggle to stay in the light, He offers us His undeserved grace and mercy. While we struggle to maintain the peace and happiness that comes from Him, He offers us release from guilt and the chance to start anew each and every day.

Lately I have been reminded of something. Those whose prime goal is to get to heaven are seeking to have their need met. Those whose prime goal is to worship and follow God because He is God will receive forgiveness and eternal life as a benefit of their commitment to Him. This world of ours does not believe in our God or just gives God a statement of commitment but there is not commitment behind it. They question the truth of God's Word or reject portions of God's Word

because it says something they don't want to hear. They question the truth that our God is the Creator. We have not learned that we don't have to convince people that we carry God's truth. They won't believe our arguments anyway. Instead we just follow the guidelines of Ephesians 4:32; "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ sake has forgiven you." Amen.