

Playlist 2018 Pt. 3

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We live in a culture that's in collapse.

Matthew 15:14 (MSG) – ¹⁴ They are blind men leading blind men. When a blind man leads a blind man, they both end up in the ditch.

He's talking about spiritual blindness.

Isaiah 43:5-8 (NIV) – ⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. ⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth. ⁷ Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." ⁸ Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf.

It's actually possible for You to hear and not hear, to see and not see. There are three things that bring this type of spiritual blindness and destruction.

1. Ignorance

Ephesians 4:17-19 (NIV) – ¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles [those who don't know God] do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

2. Rejecting the truth

John 8:9-12 (NIV) – ⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." ¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

3. The god of this world

II Corinthians 4:3-4 (TLB) – ³ If the Good News we preach is hidden to anyone, it is hidden from the one who is on the road to eternal death. ⁴ Satan, who is the god of this evil world, has made him blind, unable to see the glorious light of the Gospel that is shining upon him or to understand the amazing message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is God.

II Corinthians 11:14 (NIV) – ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

There are three keys to escaping spiritual darkness.

1. God's people must be like Jesus.

James 1:20 (GNT) – ²⁰ Human anger does not achieve God's righteous purpose.

Righteous anger leads to self-righteousness. What was Jesus heart toward those heading toward destruction?

Matthew 23:37-38 (TLB) – ³⁷ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones all those God sends to her! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. ³⁸ And now your house is left to you, desolate.

2. Their blinders must be removed.

Matthew 13:14-15 (NIV) – ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

You must see to turn and you must turn to be healed. You can be looking right at something and not see it.

3. The light must be brought to them.

Romans 10:14-15 (NIV) – ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach

unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"