

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, *“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

Ephesians 5:6-14

## This *illuminating* Passage Brings Us...

### 1. A WARNING AGAINST **EMPTY WORDS, EVIL WORKS & ETERNAL WRATH:**

*“empty words”* v.6, *“wrath of God”* v.6, *“unfruitful works”* v.11

These are some of the trappings of our former life, our walk without Jesus Christ.

### 2. AWARENESS OF **OUR NEW IDENTITY IN THE LORD:**

We used to be darkness, but in the Lord we are now light.

Not *in* darkness, but darkness. Not *in* the light, but light itself.

### 3. A WAKEUP **CALL TO LIVE OUT OUR IDENTITY:**

WALK as children of light, bear the fruit of all that is good, right, true.

DISCERN what pleases God. Make a tenacious effort to separate from shame.

AVOID and EXPOSE darkness, Even if it means exposing our own darkness, so Christ will shine on us.

### **Reflection and Application**

- What “empty words” have I been deceived by? Have I been a purveyor of empty, deceitful words?
- Am I building fruitful works through my time, energy and money?
- Does it seem that I am getting better at discerning what is pleasing to the Lord?
- I will read the Word of God daily in order to grow in the light of his love.
- I will pray and make an effort to let God help me be a light to \_\_\_\_\_.