

Epistle 42

by George Fox

The sermon emphasizes the importance of dwelling in the light of Christ to grow in Him and avoid condemnation.

Scripture: Jeremiah 5:31, Ezekiel 34:8, Matthew 23:6, John 1:9, John 3:19, John 8:12, John 10:12, Romans 8:14, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 John 1:7, Jude 1:11

Topics: "Living in the Light", "Discernment of False Teachers"

Description

George Fox addresses all Friends scattered abroad, urging them to dwell in the light that comes from Christ, which enables them to see Him as their Savior and grow in Him. He emphasizes that those who are in Christ are new creations, free from condemnation, and are led by the Spirit to discern the deceivers and antichrists in the world. Fox warns against false teachers and prophets who exploit the people and highlights the importance of walking in the light to receive the light of life. He reiterates that the light reveals the true nature of those who oppose it and condemns their actions. Ultimately, he calls for a commitment to the light, which brings clarity and truth amidst the darkness.

Transcript

To all Friends every where, scattered abroad: in the light dwell which comes from Christ, that with it ye may see Christ your saviour; that ye may grow up in him. For they who are in him, are new creatures; and 'old things are passed away, and all things are become new.' [2 Cor 5:17] And who are in him, are led by the spirit [Rom 8:14], to them there is no condemnation; but they dwell in that which doth condemn the world, and with the light see the deceivers, and the antichrists [2 Jn 1:7], which are entered into the world. And such teachers as bear rule by their means [Jer 5:31]; and such as seek for the fleece, and make a prey upon the people [Ezek 34:8], and are hirelings (John 10:12f), and such as go in the way of Cain, and run greedily after the error of Balaam [Jude 1:11]; and such as are called of men master, and stand praying in the synagogues, and have the chief seats in the assemblies [Mat 23:6f], all which are in the world, who by those that dwelt in the light, were cried against; for it did them condemn, and all such as speak a divination of their own brain [Jer 14:14], and are filthy dreamers [Jude 1:8], who use their tongues [Jer 23:31], and steal the words from their neighbours [Jer 23:30]; with the light, the world and all these aforesaid are comprehended, and all that is in it; and all they that hate it, and all the antichrists that oppose it, and all the false prophets and deceivers [Mat 24:11], that are turned from it, with the light are comprehended, and with the light are condemned, and all that are turned from it and hate it.

'I am the light of the world, [John 8:12]' saith Christ, and he doth enlighten every one that cometh into the world [John 1:9]; and he that loves the light, and walks in the light, receives the light of life: and the other, he hates the light, because his deeds are evil, and the light doth reprove him. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world [John 3:19f], in which light, they that love it, walk; which is the condemnation of him that hates it. And all the antichrists, and all the false prophets, and all the deceivers, the beast, and the well-favoured harlot [Nahum 3:4] , all these are seen with the light to be in that nature, acting contrary to the light; and with the light are they comprehended, and by the light condemned....

G. F.

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