

Looking around the room yesterday morning left me feeling like folks were not too excited about being delivered from the authority of darkness. And maybe it's just me, but seeing this more clearly and understanding it more deeply is a powerful revelation that puts some important things into perspective because I love liberty!

Perhaps part of the problem was what was involved in setting things up.

Going through understanding *skotos* as opposed to *skotia* took some time. And pointing out that darkness is not an absence of light, but rather a lack of light, changes what we see in our mind, and how we should perceive this "authority". Then, understanding that by using *skotos* rather than *skotia*, Paul was further pointing out that this "authority of darkness" is not a spiritual thing, like the devil's domain, but an "earthly" authority, like religion or government. Before I get carried away, (which may be too late), for the benefit of those of you who were not there yesterday, I should probably lay out what we're talking about.

We called it "The Lesson of The Darkness" for a reason. It's like Jesus is teaching us a lesson that we should learn and let the light of it help guide our lives. But let's do it backwards, starting with the conclusion! God has delivered us from the authority of people who lack light by placing us under the authority of the One Who is The Light! Alright!

Paul put it this way when he wrote to the Ephesians, **"For you were once darkness, however now light contained in the Lord, walk as children of light."** (Eph 5:8) (You might want to take a minute and let that one sink down in.) So we once "lacked light", but now, in Jesus, we are lit up. So let it shine! The realm or rule of His authority "outshines", supersedes, the authority that lacks light. You know that's right! But who is it that lacks light? This is where it got good and, remember, we're backing up.

In looking for validation of the explanation that the "authority of darkness" is not referring to the enemy himself, but to people in authority who lack light, we found it straight out of Jesus' mouth in Lk 22:53. He was in the Garden of Gethsemane speaking to **"the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and elders"** who were there to place Him under arrest. And here's what He said, **"Every day that I was with you in the temple you didn't stretch out your hand against Me, but this is your hour, and the authority of darkness."** *Exousia skotos*, That's the same words that Paul used in his letter to Colossae. Now we're back to the beginning!

"Who (God) has delivered us out from the authority of darkness, and (*methistemi*) placed us with standing in the Kingdom ruled by the purpose good will of His Son." (Col 1:13, Enhanced version) And "the authority of darkness" is those in authority lacking light! And actually, this is a big picture.

Those people that night in the garden represented, not just religious authority, but civil authority as well. They were the "rulers" of Israel. Yes, Israel at that time was enduring Roman occupation, but the majority of civil and social life was still under the authority of the Jewish leaders, and they obviously "lacked light". Sound familiar? That's why we shouldn't get stressed out about the things that the people in authority, who lack light, come up with. Our lives are hid in Christ. Yes, we're in the world, but we're not of it! One more...

All of this harkens back to where we were a few weeks ago, and again yesterday. We've been freed from condemnation out from religious obligation, settling in our hearts that Jesus has **"obliterated the written record of the (*dogma*) doctrine or corpus of doctrines relating to matters such as morality and faith, set forth in an authoritative manner by a religion, that was against us, and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross."** (Col 2:14) **"If therefore the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."** (Jn 8:36)

Love never fails!

