

# Post Tenebras Lux—After Darkness Light!

## Sermon Notes

October 22, 2107

### The Winds of Change.

- After nearly 300 years of persecution the church enters a season of peace.
- Constantine declares himself Christian thus making the Roman Empire predominantly a Christian state.
- He did not outlaw other religions, or persecute people due to a difference of faith, but did outlaw making sacrifices in honor to the Roman government.
- The church centralizes in Rome, and the Nicæan Creed is established.
  - *We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, of things visible and invisible.*
  - *And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the begotten of God the Father, the Only-begotten, that is of the essence of the Father.*
  - *God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten and not made; of the very same nature of the Father, by Whom all things came into being, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.*
  - *Who for us humanity and for our salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate, was made human, was born perfectly of the holy virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit.*
  - *By whom He took body, soul, and mind, and everything that is in man, truly and not in semblance.*
  - *He suffered, was crucified, was buried, rose again on the third day, ascended into heaven with the same body, [and] sat at the right hand of the Father.*
  - *He is to come with the same body and with the glory of the Father, to judge the living and the dead; of His kingdom there is no end.*
  - *We believe in the Holy Spirit, in the uncreated and the perfect; Who spoke through the Law, prophets, and Gospels; Who came down upon the Jordan, preached through the apostles, and lived in the saints.*
  - *We believe also in only One, Universal, Apostolic, and [Holy] Church; in one baptism in repentance, for the remission, and forgiveness of sins; and in the resurrection of the dead, in the everlasting judgment of souls and bodies, and the Kingdom of Heaven and in the everlasting life.*
- The papacy takes center stage.

## **Dark ages of the church.**

- From AD 891-1046 corruption with the papacy abounds.
- The church begins to use the sword of persecution to advance the gospel rather than the peaceful preaching of the Word that eventually conquered Rome.
- The Word of God became inaccessible to the common person as the scriptures were taught and printed exclusively in Latin and not in the language of the listener.
- The church became ignorant and dependent upon the power of the pope and priest.

“The power of the clergy over the ignorant people had become far greater than it ought to have been...The popes had supreme power on earth...from all quarters cries for reform were raised, and a reform was speedily to come.”

## **The Word is the source of light. **John 1:1-14****

- The Word is Jesus and he is the source of all living things. (1-3)
- Life found in Jesus becomes the light to all mankind. (4)
- His light defeats darkness. (5)
- The scriptures and the apostles are to call attention to that light. (6-8)
- The light of Jesus calls mankind to himself to believe and become children of God. (12)
- This Word became flesh and lived among us as a great light—drawing attention to the glory of God! (14)
- If you cannot read about Jesus, and you cannot hear about Jesus, then you will be ignorant of the light of Jesus that exposes the truth of your life and the world around you!

## **The Reformation Arrives.**

- October 31, 1517 Luther, a priest of the Catholic Church in Germany, walks out to the front of his church and nails a pronouncement upon the door of the church—The 95 Thesis!
- It condemns the use of indulgences, confronts the biblical validity of purgatory, highlights the priesthood of the believer, emphasizes salvation by grace through faith not by works, and calls for the scriptures to be in the hands of the people.
- An ignorant people were about to be enlightened through the Word of God!
- The church was to never be the same again—Hallelujah!