

Luke 11:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

Analysis

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness (Σκόπει οὖν μὴ τὸ φῶς τὸ ἐν σοὶ σκότος ἐστίν)—the imperative skopei (take heed, watch carefully) warns against self-deception. One can possess what they consider 'light' (phōs) while actually dwelling in 'darkness' (skotos). This paradox describes those confident in their spiritual insight yet fundamentally blind—the Pharisees' exact condition. They considered themselves Israel's spiritual guides (Matthew 23:16, 24) while rejecting the Light of the World.

Paul later warns of those 'having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof' (2 Timothy 3:5). Presumed light that is actually darkness represents the most dangerous spiritual state—false assurance preventing repentance. Jesus warns his hearers to examine whether their theological confidence rests on truth or tradition.

Historical Context

First-century Pharisaism prided itself on superior Torah knowledge and scrupulous observance. This 'light' of religious achievement blinded many to their need for grace and failure to recognize Messiah. Jesus's warning challenged the foundation of Pharisaic self-confidence—their religious system itself might be darkness masquerading as light.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What religious convictions or practices might you be trusting as 'light' while they actually represent spiritual darkness?
2. How can you distinguish between genuine spiritual illumination and false confidence in your own understanding?
3. What tests might reveal whether the 'light' in you is authentic truth or mere human tradition?

Interlinear Text

σκόπει	οὖν	μὴ	τὸ	φῶς	τὸ	ἐν	σοὶ	σκότος
Take heed	therefore	not	which	that the light	which	is in	thee	darkness
G4648	G3767	G3361	G3588	G5457	G3588	G1722	G4671	G4655

ἐστίν

be
G2076

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:25 (Parallel theme): There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Revelation 3:17 (Parallel theme): Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

2 Peter 1:9 (Parallel theme): But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Romans 1:22 (Parallel theme): Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Proverbs 26:12 (Parallel theme): Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

2 Peter 2:18 (Parallel theme): For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

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