

5 - 48-Bit Color, or Black & White?

**You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
Psa. 16:11 nasb**

A Question

Would you describe your sense of the Christian life as bursting with vivid colors or as more black and white? Sure, we all have some days with heavy clouds that hide the sun, but what do you accept as the norm?

My Scanner

My photo scanner needs to know what results I expect from a scan. It offers a 48-bit color option, grayscale, and on down to black and white.

I can scan a spectacular rainbow photo as black and white and that is what I will get. I cannot, however, scan a black and white image, tell the scanner to do it in 48-bit color and expect to get a color photo. It depends on what I start with.

In My Beginning

So, what mindset do you start with when you awaken from sleep? What are your expectations of the day?

I grew up in a rather black and white faith culture that included little of David's spiritually and emotionally colorful testimony in Psa. 16:11 above.

An expectation of the rhapsody that is portrayed in my thesis, especially the thought of "dancing" with God, would have been judged as irreverent. At least irrelevant.

Yes, there were those among us who were deeply devoted to Jesus and who lived out a rich, quiet faith - especially older women like my paternal grandmother. Grandmom wrote some sweet poems about Jesus but we didn't talk about Him in a personal way.

God the Father was portrayed more as a judge than as Creator God who had made this wonderful world for us to enjoy. And who had rescued us from the curse of sin so we could be close to Him.

Jesus was a warmer God-figure, but He was coming back soon and we would be in deep trouble if we were caught being bad when He popped out of those clouds.

In my late 20's, I realized I envisioned a harsh and angry God standing at the door of heaven with one foot cocked back, ready to boot me out at the slightest provocation.

Those early impressions of the Christian life painted a bland picture of God and of faith. Yes, He loved me so much that He sent His Only Son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins, but from that point on it was without the vivid and brilliant spiritual colors that represent the Abundant Life that God intends for our Spirit-to-spirit relationship with Him.

In Full Color

When man sinned and Satan became god of this world, deep darkness covered the earth spiritually as it had done in a physical way before God made the sun. Just as He made the sun to deal with physical darkness, so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bring Light into our spiritual world.

The power of Satan's darkness over us was shattered when Jesus rose from the dead and burst out of that tomb, pumping His fist in triumph after having defeated the powers of death, hell and the grave.

The full-color life of [Eph. 1:17-23](#), [Eph. 3:20-21](#), [I Cor. 2:9-10](#), and the righteousness, peace and joy of [Rom. 14:17](#), are wonderful descriptions of the spiritually vibrant Life.

Piercing the Veil

The redemption and restoration that Jesus won for us is full color. And the Kingdom of God is filled with the dazzling light of Life for those who have eyes to see.

Within it are all the delicacies that man craves to satisfy his hunger of body, soul and spirit.

Under the Old Covenant, a High Priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year to cover man's sins, but that did nothing to lessen his separation from God and the life-giving relationship He had intended.

But then Jesus came! Because of His victory, the veil between God and man was torn and we are invited to come into His very Presence. Read [Heb. 10:19-25](#) and dare to believe His invitation to you!

Survive or Thrive?

Are we satisfied to "survive," or do we believe that Jesus did enough for us that we can thrive? That we can be the "more than conquerors" of [Rom. 8:37-39](#) and the victors of [I Cor. 15:56-57](#) as we revel in the Abundant Life of [John 10:10](#)?

We have a new citizenship, and a new nature that is inclined toward God. We are reconnected to Him through Jesus and can literally interact with Him, Spirit-to-spirit, in everyday life. Yes, we can.

The full-color sense of being "saved" includes release from the depravity and ways of our old nature and from its spiritual and emotional scars and pain as we are filled and refilled with His glorious Presence of [Col. 1:27](#)

We are truly a "new creation" ([II Cor. 5:17](#)); we triumph over sin ([Rom. 6:14-17](#)); and He is glorified ([Eph. 1:12](#) and [14](#)).

We are "complete in Christ" ([Col. 2:10](#)), and if we "believe," we have rest from the ruthless inner drive to try to fill the emptiness of our souls. ([Heb. 3:12-19](#)) in things of the world.

As we grow in Christ and the Life of His Kingdom is formed in us, we will serve Him in full color as the [Mt. 16:18](#) Church.

His Light in Us

[Heb. 1:3a](#) says, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (niv). We are called to be like Him and to radiate His Presence.

[Eph. 4:13](#) says we are to mature "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ" (nasb).

God intends for His spectacular glory to be on full display in the Church as we choose to make Him our god (see Chapter 1) and surrender to His rule, displaying His character for all to see.

God calls us into the Light of His Kingdom, and it is His plan that others will be drawn to His Light in us as the prophet wrote in [Isaiah 60:1-3](#).

That is God's purpose and plan for the Church but it only happens as we enter the full-color Life "beyond the veil." It reflects His Presence, it glorifies Him and attracts empty and hurting souls to Him - and it is ours for the choosing! Why then, are we so often satisfied with much less?

"Good Morning!"

When we awaken to a day with potentially gloomy circumstances, do we let them define us or do we remember that the sun is above those clouds?

Do we dare to believe that "the eyes of our heart can be enlightened, that we may know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people," as in [Eph. 1:18](#)? niv

Consider [II Cor. 4:4-6](#). In our dark moments, do we dare to cry out to the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, and made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."?

Many who claim to follow Christ are obviously dismissive of "the god of this age" of v4, and the danger of the spiritual unbelief and blindness he proffers - and they miss the full-color Life of His Kingdom.