

## The Bright Side to Dark Times

Judges 21:25



### 1. It Makes our Christian \_\_\_\_\_ Shine Even Brighter!

- **Ruth 2:4,8-9; Matthew 5:14,16** - We're not the only ones who ever lived in dark times!
  - But it's precisely against this incredibly dark and evil backdrop that Christ's life and teachings shine so brightly and have such a \_\_\_\_\_ impact!
    - Our entire Western civilization was built on the light of Jesus' teachings in dark times!
    - The darkness makes the light of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ effective, not less!

### 2. It Wakes People up to the \_\_\_\_\_ of their Worldview

- **Judges 19:30** - Their moral \_\_\_\_\_ not only left them empty, but led them to do evil.
  - **Jeremiah 2:13** - Atheism not only leaves us empty because of its lack of a clear moral path, but because of the \_\_\_\_\_ story it tells about humanity.
  - It was the dark period of trying to remove God that exposed why we CAN'T remove Him without removing all meaning, purpose, and \_\_\_\_\_. (**John 4:13-14, 28-29**)

### 3. It Wakes People Up to the Need for \_\_\_\_\_

- **Judges 21:25** - We've been told we have no shared meaning or identity; we can create our own! But that only \_\_\_\_\_ us!
  - "When people stop believing in God, they do not believe in nothing. They believe in \_\_\_\_\_. " - GK Chesterton
  - Our false sources of identity apart from God focus far more on our \_\_\_\_\_ than our commonalities. It makes us prone to shutting down and hating the opposing groups.
  - **Acts 2:43-47** - THIS is what the world is desperately \_\_\_\_\_! To be united in a heaven-on-earth community under a benevolent \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. It Wakes the Church Up to their Watered-Down Presentation of the \_\_\_\_\_

- **Revelation 2:13-16** - New atheism was so successful at first because many churches gave themselves over to \_\_\_\_\_ and shallow messages.
- God used the dark times of the new atheism movement to wake churches up and spark a massive apologetics movement!
  - We must continue to appeal to people's minds, hearts, and \_\_\_\_\_ with the power of the gospel!
  - People are \_\_\_\_\_ from drifting around in a sea of subjectivity where everyone lives their own truth. They're ready for THE truth, so let's help them find it!