

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Int.

1. Aim: To show how Christians are the light of the world
2. Text - Mat. 5:14-16 **"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."**
 - a. Sermon on the mount -Beatitudes - similitudes - example of salt in verse 13
 - b. Salt operated internally but light operates externally !
 - c. Ye are the light of the world - cannot be hid - do good works to bring glory to God
3. We know that material light has not always existed, for God spoke, and light came into being (Genesis 1:3).
 - a. We know that light travels at a speed of over 186,000 miles a second.
 - b. It takes about 8 minutes for light to reach the Earth from the Sun.
 - c. When an object provides its own light, it is called self-luminous.
 - i. The Sun is a self-luminous body.
 - ii. Some other objects in space, such as the Moon, only reflect light.
 - iii. Moonlight is merely reflected sunlight.
 - iv. When you see a person in the moonlight, you see light that has been reflected twice.
 - v. Of course, people in very ancient times did not understand the difference in the kinds of light provided by the Sun and Moon.
 - d. As Christians we reflect the light of Jesus to the World.
4. We will notice 3 things in being the light of the world
 - a. What it means?
 - b. How you let your light shine
 - c. Why let your light shine

Discussion**I. WHAT IT MEANS TO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE** Matt. 5:14-16

A. V. 14

1. **"Ye are the Light of the world"**

- a. Jesus said I am the light of the world - Jn.8:12
 - (1) Christ states if we follow him, we shall not walk in darkness.
 - (2) To walk in darkness is to walk in sin; thus by not following Christ, one walks in darkness, without light.
 - (3) In the beginning, man walked WITH God, but SIN entered into the picture and man was separated from God.
- b. We are to reflect the light of Jesus
 - (1) God is light - Christ is light - his disciples reflect this light
 - (2) The gospel is the light - the truth is light
- c. In Eph. 5:8 the members of the church are called "children of light".
- d. Light dispels darkness
- e. The world is in darkness and we enable them to see the light of the gospel
- f. Salt operated internally but LIGHT operates externally

2. **"A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid"**

- a. The disciples are not viewed individually, but as a community - as a city on a hill. It is visible
- b. The light of Christ is to shine through his disciples on the world
- c. The disciples of Christ cannot be hid - they are visible to all - cannot be hid.

B. V. 15

1. **"Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick**
 - a. Don't light a candle to hide the light - I II. do not turn on a flashlight to cover up the light
 - b. Gospel should not be hidden by living as a hermit

2. **..it giveth light to all that are in the house.**
 - a. It becomes a blessing to all who may come under its influence
 - b. A Christian should expel everything from his life that would hinder his influence for good.

C. V. 16

1. **"Let your light so shine before men,...**
 - a. Let it shine --- not shine your light
 - b. Not a display of self- righteousness -
 - c. The light is to benefit others not the lamp!
 - d. The works are to help others see Christ, not the worker

2. **"That they may see your good works,...**
 - a. See the works you are doing
 - b. Life of a Christian is to be filled with doing good.

3. **"And glorify your Father which is in heaven**
 - a. Not for self-glory -- see the works not the worker
 - b. Lead them to glorify God not us!!

II. HOW YOU LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

A. Before Men

1. We cannot withdraw from the world and be hermits
2. "A city set on a hill" = it cannot be hid - we must live with the people of the world in order to influence them for good
3. Jn. 17:15 **"I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil."**
 - a. Not to take out of world - go out and live separate from other people
 - b. Live with the people but not live like the people of the world - not evil
 - c. A Christian's influence cannot be ignored
4. "Not under a bushel"
 - a. A light goes out if it does not have oxygen -
 - b. Worldliness destroys our influence as a Christian -
 - c. If we are influenced by the world - then our light is extinguished
 - d. We do not light a candle to hide the light.
 - e. Our light must shine before men - be an example to the world !

B. Silently

1. We are not to boast of the good we do
2. Matt. 6:2 **"Therefore when thou doest [thine] alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."**
 - a. Blow a horn to alert others to the good we are doing
 - b. Get their glory from men - that is all of their reward

C. **Willingly or naturally**

1. The purpose of a light is to shine and expel the darkness - it does it naturally not by force
2. Christians should be a good example through their very nature - because it comes naturally
 - a. A Christian attends services willingly - Heb. 10:25
 - b. A Christian teaches the lost Willingly - 2 Tim. 2:24 **"Apt to teach"**
 - c. A Christian does good works willingly
 - (1) Jas. 1:27 **"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world."**
 - (2) 2 Tim. 2:21 **"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work."**
 - d. A Christian gives liberally as God has prospered him 2 Cor. 9:6-7 **"But this [I say], He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."**

D. **Without Partiality**

1. A candle will shine just as bright in a cabin as it will in castle
2. A Christian lets his light shine before all people of the world - it is not something that we turn off and on
3. If you're not a Christian everywhere you go, then you're not a Christian anywhere you go.
4. If you are not a Christian all the time, then you are not a Christian any time.
5. Matt. 5:15b **"... and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."**

E. **With a Sacrifice**

1. While it burns it grows smaller - the oil goes down in a lamp - energy is being consumed
2. For Christ to be the light of the world - it cost Him His life !
3. It will cost us to let our light shine:
 - a. Time
 - b. Energy
 - c. Money
4. Rom. 12:1 Talks about us being a **"living sacrifice"**
5. Jesus says **"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness"** Mt. 6:33
6. There is a sacrifice to be made, but the reward is great!

III. **WHY LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

- A. To Help others - Mt. 5:16 **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."**
 1. Our example of the truth in practice helps those in sin to get out of sin
 2. The truth will purify
 - a. 1 Pet. 1:22 **"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently:"**
 - b. John 15:3 **"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."**
 3. The truth must be carried by us !
 - a. 2 Cor. 4:7 **"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."**
 - b. We are the light of the world - don't hide it

B. Glorify God

1. They do not give Christians the glory but God
2. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to so live as to glorify God our eternal Father !

Conclusion

1. If you are a sinner, then you are living in darkness
 - a. Obey the truth and come out of the darkness of sin into the light of the gospel
 - b. HBRCB
 - c. We must be Faithful and fruitful as we let our light continue to shine
2. But Too often Christians do not reflect Christ to the world:
 - a. What causes the reflection of some Christians to diminish?
 - b. The world comes between them and Christ; SIN cuts off the reflection -- darkness again. SPIRITUAL ECLIPSE
 - c. When the world becomes the main interest, desire, Christ is thus blotted out.
 - d. A Child of God MUST keep clear of the world. Jn. 17:15-16.
 - e. God demands that we "**walk in the light**" 1 Jn. 1:7.
3. We are the light of the world
 - a. What reflection does the world see in us?
 - b. A full moon, half moon, no moon, or a total eclipse ?
 - c. If the world does not see Jesus living in us then we are in darkness - sin
4. 1 Jn. 1:5-- "**In Him there is no darkness.**"
 - a. There shall be "no darkness in heaven."
 - b. We MUST live here in the light, if we desire to enjoy heaven.
5. Let your light - example - so shine - be demonstrated - before men - all the world - that they may see Jesus living in you - and give God he Glory!

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