

THE LIGHT A CHRISTIAN IS TO GIVE

Matthew 5:14-16

Introduction: Most people may not realize it, but there is much "darkness" in our world today: There is "darkness" of the mind and today is the day of the "big lie" in politics, in worldly affairs and sadly in the religious world. "No one is so blind as he/she who will not see. No one is so deaf as he/she who will not hear." When a person continually refuses to accept truth, he/she loses the capacity to recognize any truth.

Then there is moral darkness: Habitual sin destroys moral vision until one becomes like those who call "evil good and good evil" who puts darkness for light and light for darkness.

There is spiritual darkness: There are so many in the world who are like Pharaoh when Moses asked for him to let the people go and Pharaoh answered, "who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?"

Jesus has said to His people (us), "*Ye are the light of the world...*" You and I, WE are the light Jesus is talking about. It is a high calling and if you want to know what you are to do as a Christian, it is to SHINE! What exactly does "shine" mean? How can we Christians shine?

I. WE CAN SHINE BY DOING GOOD WORKS

1. *Matthew 5:16; Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31*
2. Jesus said, "*...I am the light of the world...*" and then He said, "*...Ye are the light of the world...*"
3. In Psalms it is said that "we are dust..." It is a well known fact that we cannot live without light for it is essential to growth, progress, development and even life itself.
 - We cannot see light as it really is and what we do see is light reflected from the dust particles in the air. WE ARE TO REFLECT THE REAL LIGHT - Jesus.
4. The good works we are to do are not good words, nor good intentions. Beautiful words are attractive and pleasing, yet they can never substitute for good works. A person can speak eloquently and live a terrible life.
5. A story tells of a blind man who carried a lantern. Not so that he might be able to see, but that others might be able to see and not stumble over him.
 - Sadly, many Christians carry a "lantern" but it is not lit.
6. Remember what lighthouses are for and what they do for the ships at sea. We Christians are to keep our light shining so that others may find their way to safety in the Lord.

II. WE ARE TO BE LOYAL TO CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES AND CONVICTIONS

1. Christians often tend to "go with the crowd" instead of remaining loyal to their name and business of being loyal to their convictions and principles established in the Lord Jesus.
2. Think about yourself at this point. Have you not also "gone with the crowd" instead of remaining loyal to the Christian principles and convictions your Christian life is built upon?

III. WE ARE TO SHARE OUR FAITH

1. It has been said that "when a crisis emerges, a student finds a problem, a pessimist finds a tragedy, the critic finds a subject for his/her dissecting apparatus, a politician finds a chance for trickery, while a dedicated Christian finds in some way an opportunity to share his/her faith.
2. The crisis in which our world is in today is the Christian's opportunity to hold high his/her light.
3. It is a simple Christian principle to share and we must share our best which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, do you want your life to really count? Then be TRUE to the Lord in the home, at work, at school, at the store, in your conversations.
2. Keep the LIGHT shining in your social and recreational life.
3. Be faithful, let your light shine so that others can walk in it.
4. In the old days when there were street lighters, they would light one lamp at a time on the street, but a trail in the darkness could be seen as each lamp was lit and one could follow the trail/street in safety.
5. Our world is "dark and muggy" and there is no more rewarding service nor needful service than to be a lamplighter. Let us be a light so that even after we are gone, someone can still follow the trail we left.
6. Christian, tell others about the Lord Jesus, but also live the Christian life as the Lord Jesus expects.