

OCTOBER 30TH 2005: BEING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: Phil 2:12-18

Two weeks ago.....we began to look.....instruction....for believers to be..salt/light Sermon on mount.....lifestyle ***** **Last week**....process begins by....presenting as..

TODAY my aim.....is to take us just a little further.....in our understanding... of what Jesus meant when He said in Matt 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven

When Jesus uttered.....Giving all who choose to follow.....

First..... A Statement of Fact

You are the Light.....not will be....can be...might be

But You ARE.....and the you is plural--→all believers together are
(Traffic lights.....lots of LED lights...)

AND 2nd....A CHALLENGE

You are the Light.....now go and be obvious about it

Don't hide who you are.....like a light under a bowl.....Be like a light on a stand
→ the end result being.....people will praise.....Your Father in heaven

Most of us would admit to liking a challenge

As long.....Something we can do.....worthwhile.....exciting:::::
THIS challenge.....is all those things....for the believer.

(when I was young.....one of the missionariesIGrenfell of Labrador.....
Book→What Christ means to me.....
He tells how he was brought up.....

While he was a young doctor.....1883....chanced upon a tent
Old man was praying...person near him jumped up
Let us sing a hymn while our brother finishes his prayer

That got Grenfell's attention.....espwas the speaker

**The speaker was Moody.....and thro him that night....Spirit placed a new idea in
That living one's life wholly for a Living Leader.....was religion**

**That religion was an active life lived out right now
Not an insurance ticket**

That such a life was a challenge...➔not a dull existance.....lived out on a church pew

Grenfell's writes:- *The idea of this Living Leader.....who could and did transform
all who accepted Him, and who in every rank of life everywhere, literally would walk
with ordinary folk and enable them 'to play the game' and endure as seeing Him who
is invisible, fascinated me.*

Is it any wonder that Grenfell took the challenge of being the light....so seriously
And then took the healing of medicine and the power of the Gospel to.....

Grenfell wrote towards the end of his life:

*Christ means to me the best kind of a Friend, as well as Leader, who is
giving me in this world ten, nay a hundred times,
as good as I could enjoy in any other way.*

He willingly took up this challenge from His Saviour.....and his life...others....blessed

This morning however, its not what the challenge....meant to him that is important
But what it means to each one of us.....

**In our reading...Phil 2:.....Paul put the concept of us being.....A little differently
He said in 2:14-16.....**

Aren't the stars in the sky so brilliantEasily missed for sure.....always there.

You are out in the bush at night.....what do you do????

We are to shine like stars

**The thing about stars.....on a journey.....They have a limited life span
Yet the light they project.....continues to have an impact.....**

**The stars give direction....show the way....comfort...encouragement....stability
Cause us to praise the Creator**

We too are on a journey.....And as Xtians.....Journey of usefulness for our Lord

*(I was thinking.....how we view service in heaven compared to service on earth
But supposing this is the A league here----The major service was what you were
doing..)*

One of my brothers Geoff.....works producing films.....

Before he did that he had a successful editing business.....

I have a friend.....similar business.....A Xtian....consumed him

Not that we shouldn't aim for earthly goals...honours

But only as we are prepared first....to be the Light of.....Give major benefit

SO HOW DO WE SHINE LIKE THE STARS.....how do we do it

From Phil 2:12-18 (12-13) Hard work is needed.....Listening to God at work w/in

**Then in v14-15.....put a boycott on complaining and arguing as we seek.....
(Too often Xtian group name for bickering....)**

and in v16.....always holding out the word of life

BUT AS WELL ➔.....TO SHINE BRIGHTLY.....MUST SEEK TO BECOME

PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTIVE IN LOVE

Look again at Matt 5:16....

these good deeds.....arise out of loving God and....

They are not motivated by selfish ends.....for the end is that.....

PEOPLE WHO ARE COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANS

Again Grenfell writes.....p36.....

Paul speaking to Timothy says.....2 Tim 1:7 and 2 Tim 4:5

PEOPLE WHO PRAY AND ARE KNOWN TO PRAY

This is so vital.....AS these young people are preparing.....Prayer partners

But along with praying for God's enabling.....I believe we should be known as...pray
*(Talking about this with Over 55's.....If a doctor is present.....auto available
and auto recognized.....as one who will*

As Christians who shine.....we should be known as those who will pray

*(Recently I made a phone call to a friend.....having some business troubles..tell him
I'm praying for him.....I want to be known as one who believes in prayer and)*

So to sum up **IF you are a follower.....then you are the Light**
& the challenge.....you to shine....obvious way...most obvious place...like star

To do that hard work is needed
Avoid complaining & having a go at....So know God's message

Esp

You will shine.....show forth love through your deeds
Courage in your stand for Jesus

And not only be one who prays.....but one who is known
As a person who delights to offer sincere prayer....on behalf of others

