

Let Your Light Shine!

Christ is the sole light that radiates divine truth and sustains life. He declared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). True to Messianic prediction, the gospel message of Christ shines forth into the world (Isaiah 49:6; Acts 13:47). He is the true light! (John 1:9).



What is the name of the 5 year old boy who became crippled for life when his nurse dropped him?

Significantly, the Lord described those who would follow as "the light of the world" (see Matthew 5:14-16). Christians obtain their radiance from Christ. With an emphasis on "you," the Lord of Glory affirmed, "You alone of all men" are the light of the world (R.C.H. Lenski).

"Light" and "darkness" frequently are used in Scripture as symbols of good and evil. D.A. Carson explains it this way, "In the Old Testament as in the New Testament, light most frequently symbolizes purity as opposed to filth, truth or knowledge as opposed to error or ignorance, and divine revelation and presence as opposed to reprobates and abandonment by God" (Expositor's Bible Commentary, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984, Vol. 8, p. 139).

Is our light shining? What do people see when looking at our light?

As a city on a hill cannot be hidden, and as a lamp is lit to provide illumination, so Christians are to let their light shine in the world. They must convey moral purity and divine truth through their lives to a watching world. Implicitly, Christ noted that His disciples may hide their lamps under baskets.

How is this done? How is light hidden? Observe some potential "baskets" we may have...

- 1) Fear may dim the positive influence of Christians. If Christ's followers live in bondage because of the world's intimidation, they allow Satan to extinguish the message of hope of which they are custodians.
- 2) The Christian presence is compromised by worldliness, negativism, superficial judging, and hypercriticism (see 1 John 2:15; Matthew 7:1-5).
- 3) It is diminished on account of irresponsible social interaction — rudeness, arrogance, strife, and selfishness.
- 4) The Christian light is hidden through immaturity (see Hebrews 5:11-14).

When Christ sends His followers into the world, He does emphasize their human weaknesses. They do commit sins, yet their lives should no longer be characterized by the habitual practice of sin (see 1 John 1:5-9). They must elevate their words and deeds in such a way that, more often than not, the world sees Jesus Christ in them. While Christians recognize their own fallibility, they sincerely strive "to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:12). Such activity brings glory to God. Such activity allows His light to shine.

Effective shining, however, is not merely moral restraint. Jesus explained that the brightness of "light" was equivalent to their good works that men behold. By radiating or reflecting the influence of Jesus Christ in their lives, Christians lead others to glorify their Father who is in heaven. For this reason, Christians are sent forth to shine in the world. They need to shine in their families, in the congregation, in the work place, at play, and in everything they do. By their good works, they can guide, lead, and warn those within their circle of influence. The essence of life is summed up in these memorable words of Jesus: "Let your light so shine..."

By Jason Jackson

"Heroes of Faith!"
For tremendous
teaching and joyful
participation!
God bless you! Thanks!

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday.

Friday Bible Study: from 7 to 8 PM! We are studying some New Testament commands of God for us today...

NMCCH: We are waiting to hear of the next item to gather.