

Light of the World

- I. Introduction:
 - a. **(Matt 5:14-16)** “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
 - b. Setting:
 - i. Sermon of the Mount – Beatitudes – Pentecost Pointers – Characteristics of those in the Kingdom of God (Church)
 - ii. One Characteristic is that we as children of God would suffer persecution:
 - 1. **(Matt 5:10-12)** “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”
 - iii. Exhortation to continue even under the threat of persecution
 - 1. Jesus says that we are two important life-sustaining substances for the whole world – even those that persecute us:
 - a. Salt
 - b. Light
 - iv. This is not given to us for the purpose of giving us a superiority complex – that we are better than the rest of the world – but to make us realize our tremendous responsibility to this world
 - c. What does it mean when Jesus says that we are the light of the world?
 - d. What responsibility does that impose on us?
 - e. How can we accomplish this responsibility?
- II. What does it mean when Jesus says that we are the light of the world?
 - a. To answer this question we need to ask (and answer) what is light? How is light represented in the Word of God
 - i. Illustration: A young Robert Louis Stevenson while watching a lamplighter at work exclaimed to his parents “Look, Look! There is a man out there punching holes in the darkness”
 - 1. **(Matt 21:16)** “Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?”
 - 2. Robert Louis Stevenson inadvertently spoke a great truth about Light
 - ii. Light is “Substance” – it dispels darkness – “Punches holes in darkness”
 - 1. Darkness is emptiness – absence of light
 - iii. The word ‘Light’ appears in the Word of God 271 times

1. 177 times in the Old Testament
 2. 95 times in the New Testament
- iv. First appears in Genesis
1. (**Gen 1:3-4**) “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.”
 2. Creation begins with the creation of light
 3. He then separates light from darkness – Through out the scriptures we see this idea used metaphorically
 - a. God creates light (goodness) and separates it from darkness (evil)
- v. Again appears in Exodus
1. (**Ex 13:21-22**) “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”
 2. Great pillar of fire (light) guided the path of the children of Israel in the darkness
- vi. (**Ps 18:28**) “For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.”
1. God will bring light to enlighten our darkness – light is an enlightener – a revealer
- vii. (**Ps 19:8**) “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”
1. Commandment of the Lord is an illuminator to the eyes of mankind – Commandment = Light – Reveals to us right and wrong – exactly the way God approves of
- viii. (**Ps 27:1**) “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”
1. Light + Salvation are tied together – Light guides and reveals the way to salvation
- ix. (**Ps 119:105**) “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
1. Just as God showed the Israelites the way with a pillar of light, he shows us the path of righteousness in a world of darkness
- x. (**Eccl 2:13**) “Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.
1. Light describes wisdom and just as light overcomes darkness – wisdom overcomes folly
- xi. (**Isa 51:4**) “Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.”
1. Light = Law and Justice of God

- xii. **(Dan 2:22)** “He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.”
 - 1. Light illuminates and reveals the deep and secret things
 - 2. Shed’s illumination on things that are dark
- xiii. In the Old Testament it is revealed that:
 - 1. God is the creator of Light
 - 2. God guides us with the use of Light
 - 3. God’s light will enlighten our eyes – a Revelator
 - 4. God’s light gives understanding
 - 5. God’s light is in his commandments
 - 6. In His light is salvation
 - 7. In His light is wisdom which can overcome folly
 - 8. In His light the Law and Justice of God
- xiv. In the New Testament Jesus is said to be the Light of the World
 - 1. **(John 8:12)** “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”
 - a. Jesus is the “light unto our path” – will not walk in darkness – shall have the light of life – Jesus is the True light
 - 2. **(John 1:4-5)** “In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”
 - a. Life that was in Jesus – everlasting life or Salvation from sins = light of man – Salvation from ignorance and darkness – salvation from our being in bondage to sin – no longer have to be lost – we have a light to guide us!
 - 3. **(2 Cor 4:6)** “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
 - a. We are the Light of the World but only as “Reflectors” God shed light on us that we will shine on the world around us
 - b. **(Heb 1:3)** Jesus is “...the brightness of his glory...”
- b. We take what we learn from the scriptures in regard to light and apply that to us for the whole world
 - i. We are:
 - 1. Created by God
 - a. **(Eph 2:10)** “For we are his workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
 - 2. For the purpose of illuminating God’s law and commandments, goodness, righteousness, justice, and wisdom to a world of darkness!

3. For the purpose of showing salvation to a lost world!
 - ii. This is exactly our commission:
 1. **(Matt 28:19-20)** “Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - iii. Example of this very use of the word light:
 1. **(Acts 13:47)** “For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.”
- III. What responsibility does that impose on us?
- a. Living in such a way that we shine as God’s light to all people
 - b. **(Matt 5:14-15)** “A **city** that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 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.”
 - i. Must be Visible
 1. City on a Hill – something that can’t be missed
 - a. Town I grew up in “Blink and you might miss it” – Jesus used the term “city” – not going to be overlooked
 2. Candlestick – for the purpose of being seen
 3. We as children of God are to be visible to the world around us.
 - a. **Example: (John 13:35)** “By this shall **all men know** that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
 - i. **(John 17:21)** “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
 - ii. Must Radiate
 1. Gives light to the whole house
 2. We are light of the world that are used by God to transmit or Radiate His glory to the world
 - a. **(Phil 2:15-16)** “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom **ye shine as lights in the world**; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”
 - b. **(1 Peter 2:9)** “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye **should shew forth the praises of him** who

hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

3. Easy to find the source of light – God is the source of this spiritual light – Our lives must show people that source

4. Jesus’ did:

a. **Nicodemus: (John 3:2)** “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, **we know** that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”

b. **Blind Man: (John 9:30-33)** “The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.”

IV. How can we accomplish this responsibility?

a. **(Matt 5:16)** “**Let** your light so shine before men, that **they may see your good works**, and **glorify your Father** which is in heaven.”

i. Key to accomplishing our responsibility of being the Light of the World is the word ‘Let’

1. Let means to not hinder – Doesn’t say “Shine your light to men” but “Let your light shine before men”

2. We do not hinder our light – we walk in the light and not in darkness

b. **(Eph 5:8-13)** “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light**: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.”

c. **(1 Peter 2:11-12)** “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts**, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, **they may by your good works**, which they shall behold, **glorify God** in the day of visitation.”

V. Conclusion and Exhortation

a. **(John 3:19-21)** “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprovèd. But he that doeth truth cometh to

the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

- i. Which do you love? Light or Darkness
- b. **(Ps 51:10-15)** “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.”