

Leave the Lights On

St. Matthew 5:13-16

INTRODUCTION

- A. Parents: say make sure to turn all the lights off
- B. It is time church to leave the light on! Come to church, and after we turn the lights off! Not just physically but spiritually in our lives...
- C. Christ is speaking to the multitude, and He is speaking to his disciples... Everyone, no way to say this isn't for me...
- D. To be a light we must have His life

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

1John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Phil. 2:15 "ye shine as lights in the world;
16 Holding forth the word of life"

1Peter 2:9—*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises <arete>(virtue, valor, value)of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

II Peter 1:3-5

2Peter 1:5—*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue<arete>(praise, virtue, valor, value) ; and to virtue knowledge;*

John 5:35 (be a burning and a shining light)

The excellence of His life in you; shining forth bright.

BODY

I. The Intrinsic Value In You ("Be A Light") vs.13

- *intrinsic: def: belonging to a thing by its very nature*

A. Dead Bulb

- ✓ Walk around as...Dead men inside.
- ✓ What good is a dead bulb? Throw it away?
- ✓ No burning—no light, no brightness—No life

B. True Bulb – 'Born of God' alive inside and out.

I John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

- ✓ Illus: Centennial Light Bulb:

At the Livermore Fire Dept; hand blown light bulb; built by Shelby with a carbon filament inside. It is 108 years old and still running; not only the light but everything from the ceiling to the light is still original. The filament of the bulb is much larger than the common filament we have today. It can be seen on a website 24-7!

I John 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God"

C. Fake Bulb (meant to represent something real)

- ✓ Illus: CDL bulbs; they produce subtly flickers, unnoticeable by many, but a big problem for others. Suffer seizures and migraines...
- ✓ You can't be a light until your right!
- ✓ You can't be a light without His Life

D. Burning, Shining light (really Real) value for real

II. The Specific Spot For You ("Be A Light") vs. 14-15

A. Bushel – Hidden Religion

B. Candlestick – "God's Will"

- ✓ Place designed specifically for the candle...
(you)

I had a very unique lamp; the light bulb went out in it, and only a special bulb could fit in there. Years went by...by the time I got to putting the bulb in the lamp had died.

- ✓ There are seasons – opportunities to be a light that pass us by...

C. A city (of lights) on a hill cannot be hid. (Mat. 5:14)
Col 3:1-4

3—*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

1. Your place in Christ in God is a visible witness to all.
2. Your affections are a visible witness
3. Many lights set on a Hill.
4. We all have our place each one is needed.

III. The Eternal Value Operating By You ("Be A Light") vs. 16

- In Action: without light how can men see the exit sign

A. Let Your Light Shine! Genuinely...

- ✓ A light by character shines by actions not by words (sounds) or mere doctrines...
- ✓ Character is like the rooted tree it continues to grow, its shadow is like reputation it comes and it goes.
- ✓ Good character is the well grounded light.
- ✓ Bad character is ungrounded, wild fire, fake

B. Let Your Light Shine! Faithfully...

John 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Philippians 2:15 "...in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world"

2Cor. 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Mat. 5:15 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.

- ✓ Even low light always expels the darkness
- ✓ Every Christian that shows any of Christ's life and love will be noticed.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

- ✓ Every lamp must be lighted by God.

Ps 34:5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

2Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Every lamp must give light.

It's not the lamp but the light in the lamp that must be seen.

“Let your light so shine”

C. Let your light shine! Perfectly...

a. What is this light?

- ✓ Eph. 3:17 (Christ dwelling in your heart)
- ✓ Gal. 2:20 “Christ liveth in me”
- ✓ Col. 3:4 “Christ, who is our life”

D. Let your light shine! Rejoicingly

John 5:35 “He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.”

1. The supreme business of the church is winning and training souls to be faithful witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

2. Three characteristics of a healthy church. (Jn.5:35)

a. Burning—A Consuming desire (right desire)

i. Vision for things above.

ii. Compassion for souls.

iii. Very strong value on—love for truth.

1Cor. 13:6—*Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*

b. Shining—A Righteous life (right living)

i. An unhindered light will shine

1. Unhindered by false doctrines

2. Unhindered by sin

c. Light—Truth

i. Light has to be with truth

ii. Light from the oil of the Holy Ghost

Conclusion:

For the Believer/or the church to be an effective light in the world we must be obedient to the Word of God.

➤ The Church exists for a two-fold purpose

a. Exalt Christ with a truly righteous life.

b. Win the lost with All His virtue showing from you