

Lesson Notes:

Being a Bright Light in a Dark World

As Christians we are many times in a position to influence non – christians or act as ambassadors for Christ more so than pastors and church leaders. Jesus, who was and is the Light of the world has instructed us to be lights in this world of darkness. Below is a discussion of how we may be lights in our world darkened by sin.

Scriptural Principles

1) Jesus is the true light of the world. – John 8:12; John 12:46

Jesus tells us to let our light shine before humanity that they may see your good works that glorify your father in heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus was speaking to the Galileans in this passage. They were simply fishermen and not highly respected in their day. Yet Jesus the Christ was referring to them as the light of the world because they had come to know the Lord. All too often we rely on the religious leaders of our day to have an impact for Christ on the world. If you look at this scenario from Christ's eyes you see that it is not always the religious leaders that are on the front line but it is the everyday Christian that is in a position to have an impact upon those around them. Especially on those that do not attend church services on a regular basis. As coaches, teachers, workers we are put in a position to witness through our actions to the love of Christ in our lives and have an impact that is not available to religious leaders.

Notice that in **Matthew 5:14** that we are the light of the world. Christ calls us the light of the world and not the light of the church. Christ wants us to provide light to the world and not just let our light shine within the church alone.

How do we accomplish this?

- a) **First we must know Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. By knowing Christ we can have the light of Christ with in us - Psalm 119:10** tells us that God's word is a lamp unto our feet that lights our path. **John 1:4** and **John 9:5** refers to Christ as the light of the world. In **Acts 13:47** Christ appointed his disciples to be lights unto the Gentiles. Paul tells us in **Romans 13:12** to put on the armor of light.
- b) **In addition to knowing Christ we must be just. – Proverbs 4:18** tells us that when we are just our light shines through. In **Exodus 34:6** God declares himself to be a God of mercy, grace, patience and goodness. God expects us to demonstrate these same qualities.
- c) **Be careful that your light is for the glorification of Jesus and not for yourself. – Luke 11:35** tells us to take heed that the light that is within us be not darkness. In other words our light is to glorify Jesus and not ourselves.

- d) **Our goal is not to take them out of this world but keep them from the evil one.** – Jesus tells us this in **John 17: 15-18**. Paul tells us in **Romans 7:6** that we have been delivered from the law.
- e) **In addition to being just we are to do God's work without complaining or dispute.** – **Philippians 2:14** – How many times do we see people wanting to serve God as a position of honor and not strictly as a position of service? Example, everyone wants to sing in the choir which is fine but we also need people to shovel snow, perform janitorial services, etc.
- f) **In addition to being just, free of disputes and complaining we must be blameless and harmless to be lights unto the world.** – Paul in **Philippians 2:15** tells us to be blameless and harmless so that we can be lights unto the world. How do we shine our Light? – Through our Witness, our daily walk and sharing our faith we provide light in a world of darkness.
- g) **Paul tells us that we must hold fast to the word of Life to be a bright light in a dark world.** – **Philippians 2:16, Psalm 119:11**