

is evil, and God is against all such evils. And the world should know by the mouth of God's people! But is it being done? Very little!

**The Christian life (light) must shine everywhere:** at home, at work, at school, in business, on vacation, in the voting booths, everywhere! If one is a Christian, he is a Christian at all times and in all places. How is your light, your salt, your influence to your spouse, children, grandchildren, other family members, friends, co-workers, etc. Have these been influenced for good in every way by your light? When you die will you keep on speaking good things to all that knew you and for generations to come (cp. Heb. 11:4)? Or will you speak evil?

**To the good, faithful lights in the church we commend you** and are very thankful for you. God will reward you greatly (cp. Matt. 5:12; 25:21). But it is sad to know that many have left the good sound doctrine of Christ in many ways and have taken on the doctrines of men, if not in practice – in heart (cp. Acts 7:39). And if they die in that condition they will forever agonize over the evil influence they had on their spouses, children, grandchildren, other family members, friends, co-workers, etc. Surely the scene of Luke 16:19ff, in part, has been repeated multitudes of times and will be for as long as the world stands. And in particular where the lost rich man begged: “send him to my father's house: <sup>28</sup> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment” (Luke 16:27,28, see context). I am full well convinced from the Scriptures that those who die leaving an evil example behind will have similar pleas knowing, and forever knowing, of their evil influence upon their loved ones. And they surely will hope and plea that they do not follow them to that terrible place of torments, but will they? Sad, many will!

**Shine as lights:** “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; <sup>16</sup> 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” (Phil. 2:15,16). “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8, see ff vs.). “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb 3:13). Let us be an encouragement for good to all. ♥



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Volume VII

December 2013

Number 4

### Where Is The Light?

by Perry Sexton

**“Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. **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” (Matt. 5:13-16). Our Lord here uses two elements which man is familiar with to illustrate the Christian life, and the effect of it on the people of the world.

**It is clear both elements have in mind for the Christian to live the Word of God, thus teaching it by example and by word of mouth.** A good Old Testament example of this is found in Ezra: “For Ezra had **prepared** his heart to **seek** the law of the LORD, and to **do it**, and to **teach** in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10). And of course our perfect example, Jesus: “Jesus began both to **do** and **teach**” (Acts 1:1). Of course, to become a Christian one must learn the truth (John 6:44,45; 8:31,32) and obey the truth “from the heart,” i.e., with understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:17,18). And having become Christians we must live as Christians, “walking in the light,” which is accomplished by following the Word. As Psalm 119:105 states: “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

**True Christians have a great influence on the world.** Just think of faithful Abel how he “yet speaketh” (Heb. 11:4) to influence the world. And where would we be without Noah? How about Esther and those mentioned in Hebrews 11? Of our day much good has been

accomplished by faithful Christians: School practice schedules and events have been changed because some few Christians refused to forsake Bible study on Wednesday nights; work places have been “cleaned up” because of those who opposed the trash; the sale of alcohol has been kept out of counties and so has gambling because of Christians who stood against those evils, etc. In general, much good has been done in the world because of Christians reflecting the true light of the world: Jesus (John 8:12). In fact, as many have observed, the world is still standing because of the good influence of God’s people. Just where would the world be without the influence and check of Christians? What chance would the world have without Christians in it? Did Jesus have it right: “**Ye are the salt of the earth ... Ye are the light of the world**”? Yes.

**But what happens if the “salt have lost his savour” and the light does not shine???** There is no good influence in the world. The world would corrupt much faster and be destroyed without hope. As light dispels darkness, goodness dispels and suppresses evil. Where darkness is, or predominates, there is very little or no light. Pick any city where crime runs rampant and then see how many true Christians one can find in that city. How many righteous were found in Sodom?

**Have we lost our savour? Do we suppress our own lights?** I think we have to a great extent. The evidence is seen in many ways. It is very disappointing to learn of “Christians” voting for someone who is openly for abortion and homosexuality while the other opponent clearly stands against those great evils. I have found over the years that so many of “us” are more concerned for dollars than we are for that which is morally right: that which is God right. How many of us voted for someone believing their lies that we would be better off financially, and just forgot about the little innocent children being brutally murdered in this country at the rate of 3,700 per day [LifeNews.com, 6-4-12]. Who cares as long as we can get another dollar! In whom do we trust? Where is our love and faith? Why do we not believe God (Matt. 6:33, do we believe this)? Do we care that this country is going to the dogs with same-sex marriage, etc.? Did we vote against those who promote and are for such great evil? Or did we again look to the promised “mammon” (Matt. 6:24)?

**Brethren, if our heart is right with God we will always vote morally right regardless of what may come.** If our heart is not right with God, do we think a few years of “prosperity” will really heal the

hurt? “For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD” (Jer. 8:11,12).

**How many will not speak out against such evils?** Many preachers will not preach against such evils because they are more concerned about pleasing the people and gaining more numbers to glory in, and padding their own pocketbooks (2 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Peter 2:1-3). The love of God and the love of souls are displaced by a love of money and pride of life. Many elders have that same evil mindset and many members love it also.

**How many will not speak up for that which is morally right?** Often times you find the “Christian” (hypocrite – ungodly church member) going along with and joining in the wicked conversations or deeds. Where is the light?

**How many will not defend the faith?** Not only do many of God’s people (wayward people) not have the right heart (conviction/courage) to vote against and speak out against these great evils that our God is against (they do not have the courage to stand with God), many will not speak out against doctrinal issues which is so very important to our salvation (2 John 9; Matt. 15:9). Many will not contend for the faith as our Captain has ordered (Jude 3). In many congregations you hear very little doctrinal sermons being preached, and you no longer hear the plan of salvation given. Jesus said: “For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father’s, and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26). Oh for true and faithful servants of God.

**The basic problem is a lack of true faith in God.** This is the problem that I am also dealing with in the “*Sound Words*” bulletin in a real situation. Where is the light? Things that should be proclaimed from the “housetops” are not being proclaimed at all by many of “God’s people.” As was mentioned in the *SW* bulletin, at this particular congregation speaking out against abortion and homosexuality had not been done for a long time before I came and did it. Brethren, these are just basic evils that the world should know