

Christians as Light of the World

Introduction:

Jesus is the light of the world.

John 8:12 (NASB) Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 9:5 (NASB) "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

By believing in Jesus, we have become the children of light.

John 12:36 (NASB) "While you have the light, believe in the light, in order that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and He departed and hid Himself from them.

As a result, we now are the light of the world.

Mat 5:14 (NASB) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Theme: As Christians ,we need to be intentional in being the light of the world.

Key Verse: Mat 5:16 (NASB) "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

I. The people of God are to reveal God's truth by means of their good deeds which brings conviction to an unbelieving world and glory to God the Father.

Mat 5:14 (NASB) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

A. Light is a metaphor for bringing understanding and exposure. The function of light is to illumine darkness.

1. Jesus Himself is the ultimate light of the world.

John 1:4 (N.V.) In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Note that it is the “life” of Jesus that provides the light to the world.

John 1:4 (N.V.) In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

2. Jesus brings understanding to a world of darkness.

John 1:5 (N.V.) The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 1:5 (NASB) And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There is in this passage “Creation language”

Gen 1:2 (NASB) And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Gen 1:3 (NASB) Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Gen 1:4 (NASB) And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

3. Many people reject the light that Jesus brings.

John 3:19 (N.V.) This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 3:20 (N.V.) Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

4. However, when we are born again we welcome the light.

John 3:21 (N.V.) But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

John 8:12 (N.V.) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

5. Again, light brings understanding.

John 12:35 (N.V.) Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark

does not know where he is going.

John 12:36 (N.V.) Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

John 12:46 (N.V.) I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

- B. Not only is Jesus the light of the world, but we as His followers become light also.

Mat 5:14 (N.V.) "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

- C. There is a sense in which as followers of Christ we are light no matter what.

Mat 5:14 (N.V.) "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

- D. However we should be very intentional in being light for the world.

1. People do not seek to hide a light and we should not seek to hide our light.

Mat 5:15 (N.V.) Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house

2. Rather, we are to prominently display our light.

Mat 5:15 (N.V.) Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Mat 5:16 (N.V.) In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- II. The way that we manifest the light, and also serve as salt in the earth, is through our good deeds.

Mat 5:16 (N.V.) In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

It is the deeds which are both light and salt and which stand in stark contrast to the world.

A. It is in our good deeds that we are to be in clear contrast with the world.

John 3:19 (N.V.) This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

B. The non-believing world does not want to repent from its evil deeds.

John 3:20 (N.V.) Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

C. The believer not only repents of his/her evil deeds but comes to God to enable him/her to perform good deeds.

John 3:21 (NASB) "But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

D. Jesus Himself was a doer of good deeds in being the light of the world.

John 10:32 (NASB) Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"

E. Our good deeds are not to be ostentatious but genuine.

Mat 5:16 (N.V.) In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

III. Our good deeds will bring glory to God.

Mat 5:16 (N.V.) In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

A. Christ's good deeds brought glory to the Father.

Mat 15:31 (NASB) so that the multitude marveled as they saw the dumb speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

B. Likewise, our good deeds will bring glory to God the Father.

1 Pet 2:12 (N.V.) Live such good lives among the pagans that, though

they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

IV. Conclusion:

A. We as Christians must be careful to maintain good deeds.

Titus 2:7 (NASB) in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,

B. Our good deeds will be “profitable “ in the fullest sense of that word.

Titus 3:8 (NASB) This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

1. Our good deeds are profitable in bringing God’s truth to the world - light.
2. Our good deeds are profitable in bringing glory to God.