

Message #1046
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"THE LIGHT YOU CANNOT EXTINGUISH"
{Matthew 5: 13-16}

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INTRODUCTION

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden!" {Matthew 5:14}
This is one of the most astounding and extraordinary statements about the Christian that was ever made! It is full of significance and profound implications with regard to an understanding of the nature of the Christian life.

Mind you, Jesus was speaking to simple people who had followed Him up on the mountainside...

...not philosophers

...not theologians

To common, ordinary, simple, people--like you and like me--Jesus says:

"You are the light of the world!"

..."You" refers not to someone else

..."You" refers to ALL who claim to be Christian!

Friends, "YOU are the light of the world!"

...there are numerous implications that surface when we hear this statement.

THE WORLD IS IN A STATE OF DARKNESS

The Bible begins...

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, DARKNESS was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be LIGHT,' and there was LIGHT. God saw that the LIGHT was good, and He separated the LIGHT from the DARKNESS!" {Genesis 1: 1-4}

The Bible also says that those whom God created chose to walk in darkness apart from Him; therefore, it became necessary for Him to once again send LIGHT into the darkened world...through the One described in John 1 as the "logos" {Word}...

"Through whom all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, BUT THE DARKNESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT!" {John 1: 3-6}

This is the One who declared..."I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!" {John 8:12}

And promised..."Whoever follows Me shall NOT walk in darkness, but have the LIGHT of life!"

So to this first group who followed Him up the mountainside He proclaims: "YOU are the light of the world!"

...you are the solution to the world's dilemma

...you are the ultimate answer to darkness--LIGHT

"You--AND YOU ALONE--are the light of the world!" And, I need not tell you that the darkness of the world has never been more evident than it is now!

That's the negative implication...now, for the positive!

"YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH...THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!" Having described the Christian in general terms in the Beatitudes, the first thing Jesus declares is..."You are the salt of the earth...the light of the world!"

...every believer

...every one attending worship this morning

...all Christians everywhere!

These two statements must always be taken together because the Christian is only the "light of the world" because of their relationship to Him who is "the light of the world!"

...it is He who provides our light

...we are "light" because of our relationship to Him who is "light"

...apart from Him we walk in darkness!

Paul wrote to the Ephesians...

"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light!" {5:8}

...we not only have RECEIVED light

...we have been MADE light

...AND...we have become TRANSMITTERS of light!

The light literally becomes part of us! So much so that IT HAS BECOME OUR LIFE!

...and we are now REFLECTORS of HIS light that is within us Listen carefully...

...the life that is Christ Himself

...that is ultimately God {"God is light...in Him is no darkness at all!"}

...that is the light of the Christian

...to whom Jesus says, "You are the light of the world!"

Secondly, note: we are first called "salt" then "light".

...our first effect as a believer is a general one--if you become a believer and live your life where God has planted you. you will have a certain effect--salt!

...others will notice

...they will see the transformation

We must demonstrate by our life before we speak what we believe!

...others will watch your conduct and behavior

...it is our life and lifestyle that will offer an opportunity to share verbally what we believe William James the philosopher wrote: "Beyond believing...is being!"

...we must earn the right to be heard

...that comes by consistency in lifestyle!

PRACTICAL: HOW ARE WE TO BE "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD?"

Better yet the question...

...what is the effect of light?

...what does it really do?

First: LIGHT EXPOSES DARKNESS. The Bible says, "The people which sat in darkness saw a great light!"

...when Jesus entered the world, He exposed darkness

...so with us, we offer a contrast...

...light exposes darkness!

The Christian shows a different type of life

...he offers an alternative to darkness

...for instance, the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians offers a distinct alternative to the things of the world

...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

...compared to sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies...

As "the light of the world" we have basically one message: "LIGHT HAS COME!"

CONCLUSION

"For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son {LIGHT into darkness}, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because He has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: 'LIGHT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD, BUT MEN LOVED DARKNESS INSTEAD OF LIGHT BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL.

Everyone who does evil hates the LIGHT, and will not come into the LIGHT for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 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 3:16-21}

LIGHT EXPOSES DARKNESS...AND LIGHT SHOWS THERE IS A WAY OUT INTO LIGHT!

...Christ is the way to God!

...Christ is our Light...our Great Illuminator

...Christ came to destroy the power of darkness

...Christ paid the price necessary to free us from darkness

...Christ makes us new persons

...fills us with HIS LIGHT

...and makes us LIGHT

The chorus of the song that Debbie Boone made famous reminds us...

"You light up my life

You give me hope

To carry on

You light up my days and fill my nights with song."

So...let your light shine...

...nothing can extinguish it