

TEXT: **Matthew 5:14-16** You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

INTRODUCTION:

A. Light is a powerful thing.

1. Stare at the sun and it will blind you.
2. Sun has unbelievable power, 93 million miles away.
3. Even a small light has power. A man lost at sea in a raft was rescued in the pitch of night because a search plane spotted the beam from the two cell flash-light he switched on and off.

B. This is why, perhaps, that Jesus told us to be light lights.

C. In this lesson we will consider some basic facts about letting our lights shine before men.

BODY:

I. WHY SHOULD WE LET OUR LIGHTS SHINE?

A. Jesus commanded it (text)

1. This is all the reason we need.
2. Jn. 14:15 "If you love me keep my commandments."

B. The world is in darkness and needs light.

1. 1 Jn. 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

2. **Ephesians 5:8** For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

3. Christians are the only people with the proper light for a world darkened by sin.

C. To expose ungodliness.

1. **Ephesians 5:12-14** For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

2. Light exposes what is in darkness, i.e. operating room.

D. To help others see the way- **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1. **Matthew 5:15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

2. Man can not guide himself to heaven.

E. To let men see your good works.

1. **Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

2. This is not "To be seen of men" but to do good unto all men- Gal. 6:10.

F. It causes others to glorify God.

1. Rev. 4:11 God is worthy.

2. This is the reason for preaching the gospel to all.

a. Mk. 16:15-16.

b. **Romans 10:13-17** For "*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "*Lord, who has believed our report?*" So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

G. It is being Christ-like.

1. He came to seek and save the lost- **Luke 19:10** for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

2. He let His light shine. Men knew he was different- **John 7:46** The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

H. Love demands it.

1. Song 312 "Some poor fainting struggling seaman you man rescue you may save."
2. Love cares for others 1 Cor. 13:

I. It proves who you are.

1. One who has come to the light- 1 Jn. 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. A Christian- a light bearer.

J. It is your responsibility.

1. Saved to save others.
2. Don't hide it under a basket!

II. POWER TO SHINE.

A. The power comes from Christ. Our source of energy.

B. Fuel comes from the word.

1. Study it- 2 Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. Store it in our hearts- Psa. 119:97. Oh, how I love Your law! It [is] my meditation all the day.
3. It must guide our actions- Psa. 119:105. Your word [is] a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

C. Power to shine comes through prayer- James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

D. Dedication to God helps our light shine brightly.

1. Rev. 2:10.

2. We must walk in the light- 1 Jn. 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

III. HINDRANCES TO BRIGHT SHINING LIGHTS.

A. Fear.

1. 2 Tim. 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2. "Don't let Satan blow it out"

3. "Hide it under a basket, NO"

B. Love of the world.

1. Never let the bulb get dirty.

2. Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

C. Neglect of the power source.

1. Failure to study and pray.

2. Laying out of church.

CONCLUSION:

A. As a Christian you MUST let your light shine.

B. If you are not a Christian you are in darkness.

1. The gospel light is trying to call you out- Col. 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

2. You must answer the call.

a. **2 Thessalonians 2:14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

b. **Hebrews 5:8-9** though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,