

increase in knowledge about the processes of nature and about physical illnesses and diseases and many other subjects has been truly phenomenal. New knowledge has uncovered different aspects of life. That is why people commonly talk about being enlightened and yet that is the result of knowledge and of culture. Yet the scripture still proclaims that the world as such is in a state of gross darkness. This is a simple truth. ^{tragedy} The vicinity of our country and of our century has been that we have ~~constantly been~~ concentrated solely upon the aspect of knowledge. Our knowledge has been a knowledge of things, mechanical things, the great struggle today is to uncover knowledge about scientific things and so in a biological and mechanical sense, we know that this knowledge is a real factor, that makes life, life and increases different things and yet that seems to be why we are in the real predicament we are in today. We have failed to discover the most important things of all - ^{what} ~~how~~ namely to do with our knowledge. That is the essence of ~~our~~ our whole problem with regard to atomic power this moment. Nothing is wrong with discovering atomic power. Yet we do not have sufficient knowledge of ourselves to be able to know what to do with this power. So our knowledge has been mechanical and scientific, the great basic and fundamental problems of life and living of being an existence it is not obvious that our Lord

INTRODUCTION: This is one of the most astounding and extraordinary statements about the Christian that was ever made even by our Lord. We should first of all consider the setting and remember that the people to whom our Lord uttered these words, they were indeed to become the remarkable leaders of the Christian movement. The statement is significant and we should get the truth of it for here is a great characteristic of spiritual truth as it is compressed and as we see the content of Jesus speaking to his disciples in the hills right beside the Lake of Galilee. We know there is only one true light and not even John the Baptist could claim to be that light and Jesus talking to His disciples telling them that they were to be lights. Jesus in the centuries that have passed we know as the sun shone in this world without a dimming cloud between His glory and the world of men save the vail of His flesh and so far as the world was concerned there was sunsets while it was yet noon on Calvary. Thus when His mission was completed, He seemed to shine on and on even out into eternity.

I. The Christian ~~Light~~ Light

In the 14 verse we read that He says, Ye and our Lord was looking upon these simple, plain people, unimportant people from the standpoint of the world saying "Ye are the

Light of the world". When we listen to Him say this it causes us to lift our heads up and to realize that it is a glorious and remarkable thing to be a Christian and this truly is a very good and thorough test of our position and our experience. Ye, referred to in this statement means simply ourselves. The danger always is when we read a statement like this to think that it is for somebody else. But here is an analogy between the disciples of Christ and Himself. The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, Prov. 23:27. By nature we are like so many unlighted candles. As the candle is adopted to catch the light but stands dark and cold ~~until~~ until the wick is ignited so have our natures been made to burn and shine with the nature of God in whom there is no darkness. It may be an elaborate case candle or one of commonest possible manufacture and yet both of them are incapable of producing the light and while we sit aside even the commonest piece of candle and we put a match to the end of it, it will catch the precious light of which others are destitute. The Pharisees and the scribes seem to be handsome specimens of the kind of candles that were burning in their day. And yet they were not giving any ray of hope and there was only thick darkness in that age. Men light a candle. They place the wick against some burning point of light. As you light a birthday cake you strike a match or

you put the end of a lighted candle and you immediately get a glow of light. You light a candle in the home, you turn a switch and it enables the housewife to find her lost piece of silver. This is the same way in contrast that a lost soul can be lighted. And He will cry out for this light.

When He says Ye are the light and ye alone, He carries the suggestion and the implication that this world is in a state of utter darkness. Here is a striking contrast between the Christian view of life and all other views merely made in this verse. The world is always talking about an enlightenment. During the Renaissance of the 15th and 16th centuries when men began to take a new interest in knowledge there was a great turning point in history, a great watershed which divides the history of civilization, a kind of rebirth and knowledge and of learning, the great classics were re-discovered, their teaching and their knowledge was emphasized. In the 18th century there was a revival known as the Enlightenment period. It was the beginning of a sense of the attack upon the ~~thus~~ authority of the Bible for it put philosophy and human thought in the position of the authoritative divine revelations and the declaration of God's truth to man. It always represents itself in terms of light. Knowledge they say is that which brings light and of course in so many respects it does. It would be foolish to dispute that. The

Christians always we emphasize first ^{what} ~~that~~ he is before it begins to speak of what he does. So often the tragedy has been that people proclaim the gospel in words but their whole life is a denial of it. The world does not pay much attention to them. Let us never forget that this order deliberately chosen by our Lord. The salt of the earth, the light of the world. We are something before we began to act as something.

We must get the truth here. The Christian as the light. He is not just a reflector just to reflect something but you are light. He did not say you possess light or you control light. Now light is something the figure expresses.. Light is something which you are. (Now) you are what? You are light. We will say reason is the light of the world the mind will say, it is the light of the world. In politics you would say that enlightenment in reason is the light of the world. In the educational realm you would say th ~~intellect~~ intellect was the light of the world. Enlightened self-interest is the light of the world. But as Jesus was talking to these galileans He told them they were the light of the world. Well, it stunned them. Now today when we talk to our children, we tell them what they ought to be, we tell them now here is a successful banker. Imitate. We say, here is a successful politician. Here is a successful business man. If the life lights they are to eliminate the

statement is still true. The world is in a state of terrible darkness.

We think of this in the realm of personal life, and conduct and behaviour and there are many men with great knowledge in many departments of thought and yet their failure in their own personal lives and the realm of relationships between person and person at the very time when they have been boasting of enlightenment. Thus at the time that they boast of their enlightenment there is a tragic breakdown of personal relationships thus major social, and moral problems of society. We have multiplied our institutions and our organizations we have given instructions concerning the things about which people have never been instructed in in the past. They have marriage guidance and marriage counseling and up until this century men and women were married without this sort of expert advice. Great and momentous questions of how to live, how to avoid this or that or the other and yet man is personally in gross darkness when it comes to how to live clean, straight, pure, and wholesome lives. Jesus says here that nobody but a Christian can give helpful advice and knowledge or instruction with respect to life. This is our prior claim and boast as Christian people, the greatest thinkers and philosophers are completely baffled in science and philosophy. Because their controlling theory was that all

that man needed was more knowledge and they believed that if a man had knowledge and he applied that he would find a solution to every spot in his life where there was need. We must realize that when our Lord spoke this nearly 2000 years ago that He spoke the simple startling truth about His own age and about every age that would follow in His train. It is a tremendous thrilling statement and I thank God today that I am called to preach this gospel that is applied even in this age in which I live. We see more and more the truth of the gospel. The darkness of the world has become more evident.

We come back again to the implications of Ye and He explains that Ye the ordinary Christian though you may never read philosophy though you may never understand all of these things in science yet he understands more about life than the greatest experts who have studied all of the books, for the world by wisdom knew not God, Paul said. It is therefore pleasing to God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe so the things that appear to be utterly ridiculous to the world is the pure wisdom and knowledge of God. Let us remember always remember that this is certain of Christians. When He said Ye are the Light of the world we should remember that on one occasion He said, I am the Light of the World, you attach these two together since the

Christian then is the only light of the world today. Of His relationship to Jesus. He and He alone gives us this vital light in respect to life. He does not stop at that. He makes us light. Ephesians 5 says, For ye who are sometimes darkness but now ye are light in the Lord. So not only have we received light but we have been made light. We become transmitters of that light. This is the mystical union between the believer and Christ. This is a remarkable thing therefore of which we are reminded here of the intimate relationship we have become partakers of the nature of Jesus Christ the Light that is in Christ himself is the light that ultimately God has given to the Christian. God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all. I am the Light of the world, Jesus said. Now He says, Ye are the light of the world and so the Holy Spirit comes and takes His abode in our hearts.

Why would not the reverse be true? Well, that is interesting and important and practical. First the effect of the Christian on the world is a general one. Here is a man who becomes a Christian. He lives in society and in his office ~~xxx~~ or workshop because he is a Christian he immediately has a certain affect, a controlling effect which is considered together earlier as the salt of the earth. After that he has a function acting as light in dealing with

need something to show us the difference and the best way of revealing the thing is to provide a contrast and the gospel does that. Everyone who is a Christian does that. The light exposes the hidden things of darkness and the whole world is divided into the children of light and children of darkness.

And life is either covered with darkness and the worse things about the natural man is that he is ashamed of the things that he indulges in and when light comes, light exposes this.

The Christian is a light of the world and in that way it is ~~in~~ inevitable. He cannot help it just because he is a Christian he shows a different type of life and he reveals a darkness and people immediately begin to think they begin to wonder, they begin to feel the shame when a saintly person comes in he need not say a word. Just by being what he is makes people feel ashamed of what they are doing and the way they are truly functioning as life. He is providing a standard of another kind of life.

Every true (revival) has always had this effect. A number of Christian people in any area will discover that the light lights up the darkness in their heart and lives. They thrive in darkness and somehow or other they cannot stand the light.

(John 3), this is the condemnation that light is come into the world and men love darkness rather than light because

world. Am I right or wrong? I mean generally speaking with a few exceptions do you not tell your children that a Christian is the best possible person in the world. That they should imitate Christians. I wonder do you. Or do you hold up the example of Mr. Rockefeller saving ~~so much~~ so much money a week and passing on ~~so much~~ for the idea that you pass on is to make great money. You are telling success stories like that. As (Hershey Davis) once said, You could tell a success story like George Washington he is a great man to imitate. He only lied when necessary. Now Jesus did not say its reason, He did not say the Old Testament was the light of the world either. He did not say that the Bible is the light of the world, You see in some churches on the fancy colored windowed a big open Bible with the words The Light of The World. Well Jesus did not say that. He never did say it. What did He say? He said, His disciples were what? The light of the world.

II. The Quality of This Light.

Life was the ~~light~~ In John 1:9 we notice those words the ~~light~~ Light. Christ was the Light of men not primarily because he wrought miracles and spoke wonderful words but because he lived and because He did. The people who sat in darkness saw a great light because he came and dwelt in their midst and he was here by the sea with them. This means a silent

influence of life. We shine by what we are. The wick of our nature. The Bible says in John 5:35 of John the Baptist he was a burning and a shining light. The Baptist shone because he burnt. His light caused him life on one occasion he said, I must decrease and his ministry lasted just a short few months and yet there is no true shining without light. The light that costs you nothing is hardly worth the giving. And so John's light ~~brings~~ burns down to the socket.

John was fervent, intense, passionate, in devotion because his burning stood for heat, his love for others and generated from a burning heart behind his testimony for Jesus Christ. He gave Light. This light will never be quenched as the great apostle on the road to Damascus was ignited with fire and he was a great shining light.

Another things for us to note about the quality of this light it is light like a (city set on a hill). Up on top of a hill is not able to be hid. Now Jesus is leading up to something here. He always uses good illustrations. These Jews were looking across the Sea of Galilee. There were a number of cities, towns, across there and they were placed on hills. Well, there is suggesting something to us isn't it. You are light or you are not light. A city set on a hill. You can't hid it. Well, neither can you do that with a lamp neither do you light a lamp and hid it but you place it on a lamp stand

and when it is placed on a lampstand in cannot be hid.

III. Where is the light to be placed.

The passage tells us that this light is to be placed upon a lampstand. He hints that it is to be moving out into ever enlarging circles as the home is mentioned. This will reach out to the streets, to the strangers, and then he mentions the city in olden times cities were built on hills and they also tell us that in olden time there was watchman who would move through the streets at nightfall and cry Hang out your lights hang out your lights. And so Christians are admonished everywhere to hang out their lights so what people might find their way to the Saviour and this would include the world as the Christians are bearers of this fate. When we think about where the Christian is to place his light and how indeed he is to be the light of the world, what is he really to do and what does his light do? First of all it exposes a darkness. It doesn't belong to darkness but you imagine a room in darkness and then suddenly a light switch is turned on. Or you think of the headlights of a car coming out of a dark country road and whatsoever doth make manifest light. We are not truly aware of darkness until the light appears. Matthew says the people which sat in darkness saw great light. That is, the coming of Christ and the gospel is so fundamental that it exposed the darkness and the life of this world. We always

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It is foolish for us to think about lighting a lamp and then obscuring its rays, by placing it beneath a bushel used to handle corn. The purpose of lighting the candle is all frustrating. How many of God's children have placed bushels on the light of the daily testimony? What are some of the bushels that people put over the light today. Uncharitable speech. Peevish and murmuring complaints. Unforgiving spirits. A mother was reprimanding with her grown up son for not having become a Christian. He said, Mother, you have always seemed so afraid of God. Whenever anything has gone wrong in your life you have been so put out so fearful about the future that you have made us think that we can get on as well without religion as with it. Dear friends, what do you think of such a testimony? Is not that an example of an occasion of the bushels which cover our lights. How many times have you heard someone say, He is a good man but... Or she is a very good woman only... Then they mention some of the bushels in life that have cover their light. Now Jesus said Let your light shine. In contrast with the bushel is the stand of the candlestick. Not under the bushel but on the stand. What is your stand? God has chosen the very place in which you can do your best work. The master of the house may have put you in a very small corner and on a very humble stand but it is enough if it be his blessed will. Andrew

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their deeds were evil. Their deeds will be reprov'd even though they do not want them to but because light comes.

This was the ultimate cause of the antagonism of the Pharisees and scribes to the Lord Jesus Christ. Here were these men teachers of the law claiming to be experts in the sense of the religious life and why did they hate Him, why did they want to persecute Him? In His utter purity, holiness, without saying a word to them He revealed the darkness in their hearts by just living the Christian life before them.

When the Christian lets his light shine and places it in the right place it will explain the cause of the darkness. That is where it become so practical and so important at this present time when we think about this second thought. The great thinkers of today are baffled in regards to what is wrong with the world. Christians have the light which explains the situation. The sole cause of the troubles of the world at this moment from the personal to the international level is nothing but man's estrangement from God. And the light which the Christians have cannot but truly reveal this relationship. The Christian is like this. He was made like this by God and God has put certain rules in his nature. Every difficulty in the world today can be traced back to the last analysis of sin, selfishness, and self-seeking. And men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

The result is thought he knows what is right he prefers to do that which is evil. He has a conscience which warns him before he does anything that he knows to be wrong. Nevertheless he does it. He may regret it but he still does it. Why? Because he likes it. The trouble with man is not in his intellect it is in his nature. The passions and the lusts that is the dominating factor. Try to educate and control man. It will avail nothing as long as his nature is sinful and fallen. That then is the condemnation, no one to warn the modern world except the Christians. The philosopher does not know how to speak nor what to prevent in his teaching with his wide knowledge he still knows nothing about the human nature like everyone else he is subject to the passions lusts, and desires. He is baffled by bewilderment, frustration and all that is bad and he gives up in despair. The gospel is that which makes a man to face himself. And it always tells him the same thing. That is the trouble and the gospel alone proclaims it. It stands as a light in the heavens it reveals itself amidst the problems of darkness and the miseries of this unhappy world.

When we think about where to place the light and how to cause it to shine, we do not stop there because we know that light not only exposes darkness and provides understanding but in a third place it shows and provides the only way out of

darkness. This is where every Christian should be thrilling at the task. The problem of man is the problem of the fallen sinful nature and we may try knowledge, we may try education we may try enchantments and enactments and laws and conferences or all of these will not avail. Is there no hope? Yes. Ye must be born again. The exact opposite of this loving the darkness and hating the light, man needs to be taken hold of and he needs to get back to God. It is not enough just to tell him that because if we do we are leaving him in a still greater state of hopelessness. He will never find his way to God, try as he may. The Christian is here to tell him that there is a way to God and there is a simple way. It is through the one person Jesus Christ, God's son who came to illuminate the darkness, expose the cause of darkness, make a new and living way out of which all might get back to God and to heaven. This is a new nature and a new life. This is a new teaching, a new pardon for sins. It brings a new outlook, it causes him to hate darkness.

IV. Bushels to Avoid

When Christian people as you think of living in the midst of men and women in a state of gross darkness they will never have the light unless you they get it from you. They are watching you and there ought to be something different about you. And your life should not be smoked up with sin

We are only the light of the world as He who is the light of the world works this in us. The wick must be attended to to keep the lamp burning brightly, the oil is not enough. You must keep on trimming the wick. Many of us today have never known anything of him in this modern world of electricity. But some of us remember how the wick had to be given special attention. Once it began to smoke it did not give the light so the wick had to be trimmed. And it was a delicate process. What does this mean to in the practice for us? Well, it ought to remind us that we need to be poor in spirit, peacemakers, we need to calculate day by day to keep the wick in order and trimmed just as to remind myself of what I am by the grace of God. And it is to be a steady light not a flare out and then to burn low for a while but we ought to be constantly lights for Jesus. But let's always remember that the lamp is not the most important thing the light is everything. This body our own worldly things and material things are not the most important things, it is the light that shines for His glory. A Boston preacher illustrating Michael Angelo said that he space a candle on a pasteboard cap that his own shadow might not fall upon his work. So should our light shine that self will be subdued even like the skylark he rises out of the lowlands and sings as he soars until he is in the deep blue above still showering his melody to the

was a means of igniting his brother Peter when he brought him to Jesus.

What a good thing it is when a man takes his bushel off his light and turns it upside down. A man's bushel has been the love of strong drink. Let him conquer it. Let him put it under his feet. Let him destroy that bushel. Let him turn and win others who have drink cursed lives. Blessed things when the fire of divine love kindles the bushels and themselves and destroys them and making that power which can compel men to turn from the power of darkness towards its attractive glow of light. When we think of how men and their lights ought to shine freely without hindrance just as there is danger that salt shall lose its saltiness there is a danger that light may be lost in darkness. It cannot remain hidden if it would remain Christian. Don't hide your lamp under a bushel. Now Jesus said men never hide their light under a bushel. We tell men not to hide their lights and Jesus said men never hide their lights for if you put light under a bushel it would get little air and would soon burn out, right quick. What Jesus meant to say is that you are a light and don't hide your light. He said that light is something that is what; what you are. And men never hide the light. There is a story of a traveler who on a dark and stormy night visited a lighthouse. While standing there looking on the

keeper boasted of its brilliancy and beauty of saying that there were few lights as this in the world and the traveler said, thoughtlessly, That may be, what if one of these burners should go out tonight. What said the keeper, go out sir. O sir, said he, look at that dark and stormy sea. You cannot see them ~~but~~ there are ships passing and repassing there to every point of the compass. With the light to go out from my lighthouse lack of attention in six months new would arrive from every part of the coast as such ships and crews were lost through my neglect. No, he said, God forbid such a thing should ever occur. I feel every night as I look at my burner as if all the eyes of all the sailors of the world were looking at my lights and watching me. If such care of the lights to avoid ~~dx~~ temporal catastrofy how much greater care should we give as the light of the world. Now this world that is in darkness and those who face a greater tragedy even one that is indescribable.

V. The motives

We never should forget the one object in holy living is to glorify your father which is in heaven. The glory of the father was the one motive that occupied the mind of Jesus for he once said, I must be about my father's business. as he stood in the shadow of the cross on another occasion He said, Father, glorify thy name, I have gloried thee on

earth, John 14:13 John 15:8. So live speak and love so that God may glorify it and count your life a failure unless men turn from you to Him. Your light so much shine. Whatsoever things therefore ye eat, or drink or whatsoever things you do, do all to the glory of God, I Cor 10:31. God will supply the lamp with oil. After all we are but wicks to the edge of which as up a ladder the oil climbs some to cistern we succeed to read or work by the burning of the wick, no it is the oil that is burned on the wick and the wick slowed chars as it yields itself to mediate between the fire on the one hand and the oil on the other. Keep on burning o Christians However long life may be dark the night.

God will certainly have to trim your light He will leave this sacred business to no other hand than His own and he reserves for snuffers of gold I Kings 7:50. There are tow things ~~you~~ that are necessary to the lamp, the oil and the wick and the two things always go together. You will find of course that some people will talk about the oil, others may talk about the wick but without the oil and the wick you will never have much light. The two are absolutely essential. When we think about the story of the ten virgins we remember that oil was absolutely essential and without it it was impossible to et light. We have to receive this light, this divine light, we cannot function as a light without it.

listening earth. Did you even pause to think how it is in
our streets at night with no lights? We are to allow ~~our~~
lights to shine and you are the light that men may see your
light, sir. What does it mean to glorify. Does it mean
to give a shout? or a yell? Does it mean to say a whole lot
of nice things about God. It means to give expression to the
recognition that God is your Saviour, your redeemer, to get
this I will have to go all the way back to the old Testament
to show God's ~~relationship~~ relationship to His people as Redeemer
Now what is your light for? To glorify God. You can't hide
it. The city did not place itself up there on the hill. The
city placed on a hill, the lamp did not light itself, did it?
All right it is your business and my business to do what?
to shine. So in those little eastern homes they did not use
tables and chairs, they sat upon the floor and therefore a
tall lampstand was required in order that the light might be
diffused over all the room. So God would have us to be His
atmosphere to carry His sun beam, His dandlestick, His lamp-
stand, to lift up His light in Christly living and in loving
his commandments and in active service for Him we are to be
like that.

So. Nov. Dec. 18 - 1966 A.M. //
So. Nov. - June 12, 1960 - A.M.