

BEING A LIGHT FOR GOD

Introduction

- 1) **Matthew 5:14-16** – God’s people are the “**light** of the world”
- 2) Spiritual light can only shine from those who are in fellowship with God (Jn. 8:12; 1 Jn. 1:5)
- 3) We live in the marvelous light of God (1 Pet. 2:9), and are to walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8)
 - a) This light should not be switching on and off; our light should always be ON!
- 4) Using an acrostic, let us notice what is needed to be a consistent **LIGHT** for God

I) **L**earning the Word

- A) Being light in the world necessitates learning and knowing the word of God (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15)
 - 1) The more we know the brighter we can shine in word and deed
- B) More than just surface, or trivial, knowledge
 - 1) Understanding of Bible story, scheme of redemption, nature of God, work of church, etc.

II) **I**mitating the Lord

- A) Knowledge leads to sincere and dedicated obedience
 - 1) Obedience involves imitating our Lord (Jn. 13:15; Eph. 4:32; 5:1-2; Lk. 6:36; 1 Pet. 2:21)
- B) Paul followed Jesus, and encouraged others to follow his example in doing so (1 Cor. 11:1)
 - 1) People will see the light of God in us (Phil. 2:15)

III) **G**irding the Mind

- A) To “gird” the mind is to be prepared, ready (1 Pet. 1:13)
- B) We need to be ready to...
 - 1) Learn (Acts 17:11)
 - 2) Do good works (Titus 3:1)
 - 3) Give reason for hope (1 Pet. 3:15)
 - 4) Defend the truth (Phil. 1:17; Eph. 5:11)
 - 5) Welcome the Lord’s return (Matt. 24:44)

IV) **H**elping the Needy

- A) Being a light for God means helping those who are in need
 - 1) Put others first (Phil. 2:4)
 - 2) Be ready to give physically (1 Tim. 6:18) and spiritually (Gal. 6:9-10)
- B) Our light will not shine if we fail to do the good that is needed (1 Jn. 3:17-18; Jas. 4:17)

V) **T**eaching the Truth

- A) Our light shines bright when we communicate the truth to hungering and thirsting souls (Matt. 5:6; 2 Tim. 4:2; 2:2)
- B) We teach as we live and talk – what do others see in us? Hear from us?
 - 1) One who never speaks of God and His will is not a light in this world

Conclusion

If a bulb goes out, we replace it. If a match burns out, we strike another one. If our spiritual light goes out, God will cast us aside (Rev. 2:5). If one does not reflect the light of God, he cannot dwell in His presence. Obey God today and **shine your light** before men.