

You Are God's Light

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication: (2nd) *Lorea Marie Cochran* (Chris & Angela) *Chris' 2nd grade class up front.*
- B. Slide3 Rick - 1st Responders BS: Tues. 7pm. Agape room. Jan. 5th. Romans.
- C. Slide4 Christmas Eve Services: 3, 7, 9pm.
- D. Wed Night Service: in gym.
- E. Note, *Church Office modified schedule*, from Christmas Eve to after new year.

II. Slide5 Intro: You Are God's Light The value of light is illumination

- A. Slide6 Last week we took *You are the Salt of the earth*. But I have one more incredible picture to show you from the famous *Salt Artist Rob Ferrel*.
 1. This week *You are the light of the world*. And I thought this would be apropos for our text this morning. Slide7 :)
 2. *You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* NIV *TY Jen*
- B. Slide8 The Protestant Reformers cried, *Post tenebras lux* (After darkness, light) - to signal and celebrate the release of the gospel of grace.
 1. No longer would they labor in the gloom of *performance-based salvation*.
 2. No more anxious hopes that *merit would accrue*.
 3. Now they shone *self-forgetfully*, as do *new creations in Christ*.
- C. Slide9 Jesus did not speak these words to the *philosophical intelligentsia* gathered on Mars Hill in Athens. Neither was He addressing the *Sanhedrin in Jerusalem* nor the *Senate in Rome*, though they would have surely considered themselves *the light of the world*.
 1. No, He preached this Sermon on the Mount to ordinary folks gathered near the shore of Galilee. They were undistinguished in *intellect, power, & wealth*. They were, however, distinguished in the way that counts - *they were enthralled by Jesus*. [And Jesus didn't wait to give them this *title* till they had 3 yrs of teaching, but at the very beg of ministry]
- D. Us & them (believers & unbelievers).
 1. Not, this group is better *or* more important, *than* that group.
 2. But, Jesus was saying *I AM different*, thus *my people* are *different & distinct*.

E. **Problem** in the 2nd verse of the bible/Gen1:2 **Darkness**. **Solution**, next verse, **Let there be light**.

III. Slide10 **YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (14a)**

A. **You** is emphatic. The bible always seems to give us **Identity** before *behavior...You are...*

1. A light bulb *that has power running to it doesn't try to shine...it just shines*.

a) Not by **effort**...it just *burns*.

B. Slide11 **Light** is electromagnetic radiation w/in a certain portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. [Pink Floyd Album, *Dark Side of the Moon*]

1. By **light** we are usually referring to **visible light**, which is visible to the human eye **and** is responsible for the sense of sight.

2. Visible light is usually defined as having wavelengths in the range **between the infrared** (with longer wavelengths *red*) and **the ultraviolet** (w/shorter wavelengths *blue*).

C. Slide12a **Light** - $\phi\omega\varsigma$ *phos* - where we get photo, photograph.

1. Jesus is saying, *you are My image/photo/exposure of Me to our world*.

a) Slide12b *Photography*: a picture made in which an image is focused onto **light-sensitive material** & then made **visible** and **permanent** by chemical treatment, or stored digitally.

D. **Light** is described as a form of energy it is **always moving**. "*When light energy ceases to move, because it has been absorbed by matter, it is no longer light*".

1. Slide13 Here in this diagram, a beam of light is depicted traveling between the Earth and the Moon in the time it takes a light pulse to move between them: **1.255 seconds** at their surface-to-surface distance. The relative **sizes** and **separation** of the **Earth–Moon system** are shown to scale.

2. **Lights of the world** we should be *always moving*.

E. **What a Compliment** - This is **a distinctive title** which our Lord appropriates to **Himself**.

1. Slide14 Jn 8:12 *I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life*.

2. Jn 9:5 *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world*.

3. Jn 1:4 *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*. vs.9 *That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world*.

4. Jn 3:19 *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*
 5. Slide15 It was a title that seemed to be *unsuitable* even to the highest of all the prophets (Jn1:8 *He was not **that Light**, but was sent to bear witness of **that Light***)
 - a) It must be applied *here* by our Lord to His disciples *only as they shine with **His light** upon the world.*
 - b) *Nor* are Christians anywhere else so called. As if to avoid *the august title* which the Master has appropriated to Himself.
 6. Oh Christians are said to shine - not as *lights* (*phos*) as our translators render it, *but* as (*phosteres*) *luminaries* in the world (Php 2:15 *that you may become blameless & harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **shine as lights** in the world*)
 7. *And John the Baptist* is said to have been the burning and shining (not *light*, as in our translation) *but lamp* of his day (Jn 5:35 *He(Jn) was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light*).
 - a) Slide16,17 Jesus said, *He was the light of the world...and now* He says **WE ARE!!!**
- F. *It Is Nothing for us to Boast in* - because it is not our light.
1. It is even still *His light* given to us when we get to heaven. Rev.22:5 (last mention) *They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.*
 - a) *Illust: Jesus* is the **Sun**. **We** are the **Moon**. *We only reflect light.*
 - b) Slide18 *Lunar Eclipse*. What casts darkness upon the moon, is *the earth* getting in *between* the Moon & the Sun. It's when we let *the world* get in between us & Jesus.

IV. Slide19 **DON'T HIDE YOUR LIGHT (14b,15)**

- A. *Again the context* (just like the salt losing its savor), *A lamp put under a basket* has *nothing* to do w/*losing your salvation*, the context is *your witness* (that they may see your good works).
- B. Slide20 **NOT UNDER A BASKET**
- C. *Hide it under a bushel...NO!* - *Reveal* who **you** are. *Reflect **Whom*** you see.
 1. *Why are we often tempted to hide our light, rather than let it shine?* [fear, embarrassment, shame, awkwardness, being *self-conscious*, *shy*, *inhibited*]

- D. If it was **covered**, the flame would be extinguished, & it would be no good to those around it. *And, it would make us a basket case :)*
1. **Light is to be seen:** There is no such thing as a *secret Christian*. We need to be a light **at all times**. - *A lamp that is hidden provides no benefit.*
- E. **Only we can hide our lights**
1. Science has proved that **light** can't be put out by **darkness**; and Christian History has proved that our **light** can't be put out by **those of darkness**.
 - a) The more the light is threatened, the brighter her blaze.
 - b) Jn. 1:5 (J.B. Phillips Trans) *The light still shines in the darkness & the darkness has never put it out.*
- F. **Slide21** The Value of Light is *Illumination*.
- G. **Slide22** A CITY SET ON A HILL
- H. It's not for us to *lie or hide* in concealment. God intends His **grace** and His **gospel** to be **conspicuous**. Built & set up on the mountains brow.
- I. Jewish tradition considered **Israel & Jerusalem**(as well as **God & the law**) *the light of the world*
1. The **city** here may be speaking of **Jerusalem**; or it may be any elevated city at night, whose lights would make it visible to the surrounding countryside.
- J. **Slide23** A LAMP ON A LAMP-STAND
- K. In order for a biblical lamp to give light...the lamp had to **use itself up** (i.e. the oil).
1. Be refreshed often with *more oil*...a fresh filling of the HS.
 - a) You can't **give out unless** you've **received**.
 2. Warren Wiersbe said, *unless the wick of witness is fed by the oil of the H.S., the light will go out.*
- L. Here is the hard part...exposing/revealing your light in **your** house. **It gives light to all who are in the house.** [*even your dog should know you are a Christian*]
1. **He** has lit us & set us on a candle stick.
- M. **Slide24** Functions of Light
- N. **To Expose** darkness: Light exposes & reveals Darkness
[You & I are **light revealers** & **darkness exposers**]

1. Our lives expose the darkness of **ignorance & sin** in our world.
2. Darkness is expelled as soon as you turn on the lights. *People are not aware of the darkness they live in if they don't see the light.*
3. The question is **does my life help people see more clearly?**

O. **Slide25 Paul** tells us...Eph.5:8-14 **For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light** from the Lord. **So live as people of light!** 9 For this **light** within you produces only what is good and right and true. 10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and **darkness**; instead, expose them. 12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. 13 But their evil intentions will be exposed when the **light** shines on them, 14 for the **light** makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and **Christ will give you light.**"

P. **Slide26 To** serves as a **guide**:

1. I remember years ago I went up in a small plane out of Winchester airport with a friend, just to cruise around. I remember flying over Hemet at night. My friend said watch this...he hit his intercom mic twice & it lit up an airport I couldn't even see was there. Airport runways helps planes see their runway **by the lights**. *We are guides to people who are in darkness.*

Q. Yea but what can *one lil Light* do in such a dark world?

1. When the world was its darkest (**the flood**) God called 1 man, **Noah**.
2. When human history was at its darkest, **after the flood**, God called 1 man, **Abraham**.
3. When Israel was at its darkest day down in **Egypt**, God called 1 man, **Moses**.

V. **Slide27,28 SHINE B4 MEN (16)**

A. **THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS**

B. 3 x's the possessive word **your**. [**your light** - **your good works** - **your father** in heaven]

C. 3 places *Light of the world, Light to all in your house, Light so shine before men.*

1. It's allowing God's light to be **on full display** in your life.

- D. Our light shines *not so much that* people may see the light as that they may *see other things* because of the light.
- E. Our light shines not that people will be attracted to us **but** to the light Jesus Christ.
- We are to dispel darkness. Arise; shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.* (Isa. 60:1-3)
- F. **Slide29** We are not called to **save** the world, **we** are simply called to **shine on** men. Revealing to them *the truth concerning human life, the possibilities of human life, & the principles that underlie human life. It's showing them what life may be.*
- G. Acts 17:27 *so that they*(mankind) *should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope* (i.e. in darkness) *for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.*
- Grope** was used once in Homer's Odyssey, when the hero *Odysseus blinds the Cyclops, and the poor monster is left to grope around.* [only few other x's in all GK lit]
 - What an interesting picture the Holy Spirit gave to the Athenians.
 - They were **searching for God**, **but like a blinded Cyclops**, they were *groping around in the dark* for him.
 - In **the gospel**, the Athenians had the opportunity for *real sight*.
- H. **Slide30 THAT THEY MAY GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN**
- Shine & dispel the darkness *with loving service*.
 - Make your influence as a Christian felt in the world.
- J. Don't feel you have to put *a Jesus fish* on your **good works**.
- Don't worry/spaz if someone *pays you a compliment*. You don't have to say, *It wasn't me watching your kids, it was the Holy Spirit???* (then it's all awkward)
 - They'll recognize *your works* are from a *different source, diff origin, diff quality*.
 - He** is the **source** of our good works. He'll take care of it.
- K. **Father** - how Jesus commonly refers to God; it indicates their relationship & God's authority

1. The **Fatherhood** of Yahweh was a commonly held view throughout Israel's history before and after the time of Christ. **But here, Jesus extends this metaphor to members of the kingdom** (see especially v. 45).

L. (Msg) *You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

M. Has the light of Jesus turned on in *your* soul?

1. Have you ever seen windows that haven't been washed in years?

Maybe that's an accurate picture of *your* soul. Do you feel *dull in your soul*? Allow Jesus to place His light inside you today.