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VIRTUAL

Shining the light of God's Truth is reflecting the light of His Son—with our attitudes; our ways; and our conduct in general. We should be conducting our life in a way that brings *glory* to God and *attention* to His Son—doing kind and charitable deeds that reflect *His* attitude.

² Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Jesus commissioned us to—Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” It is to *act*, and *talk*, and *treat* others in a way that gives evidence Jesus is living in our heart. John 15:4 “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in me; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.” Bearing fruit is shining the Truth of Christ-like attitudes.

At the White Throne Judgment, we will all give testimony on how well we let Jesus *control* our life and are attitudes. Matthew 16:27 “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father

with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Our works in this life—our *decisions*; our *attitudes*; and our *activities* are to reflect that *Jesus* is *Lord* of our life—and that we are following His instructions on Christian living.

¹ Corinthians 3:12 “Now anyone who builds on that foundation may use gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone's work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value [what sort it is]. ¹⁴ If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward.”

Our life and attitudes do not always *reflect* the light of God's Truth, but there will be a time of *testing* to *evaluate* our life. If our decisions in this life—the way we *lived*; how we *treated* people; our general *conduct*; and whether showing *patience*, *love*, and *forgiveness* or not—will determine if those things we did will *survive* the fire and *grant* a reward.

¹⁵ “But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builders themselves will be saved [if repentance is forthcoming], but like someone escaping through a wall of flames.” If our past life is one of many mistakes, wrong attitudes, and unscriptural decisions—all those things would be to our spiritual *loss* and showing a wrong *example* to our family, friends, and coworkers. But if we *admit* these mistakes, *repent* and ask God to *change* our heart, He is merciful and will forgive. We will be ¹ Corinthians 3:15 “As one escaping through the flames.”

After committing our life to Christ, God *rewards* us for the scriptural things we do that glorify Him. He does not *compare* us *with* others, but *rewards* us *like* others—who also lived a life of faith in God and of trust on the Atonement sac-

rifice of Christ. Once we give our life to God, everything we do should glorify Him in some way. ¹ Corinthians 15:58 “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Everything we do as for the *Lord* has a reward, and those things we do as the *world*—are temporary and have no lasting value—they eventually are burned up. There are things we were once *interested* in and *involved* with, but are now of *little value* or of *no interest*. Our only *focus* is toward the *goal* of being accepted in the beloved—into Heaven clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

We should always want to shine the light of God's Truth like Bible believers who told others about Jesus—what He had *done* for them and how He had *changed* their life. Andrew, Peter, the woman at the well, the apostle Paul and John—all met the Messiah and shared the news with others.

The demon-possessed man of the Gadarenes was healed and delivered by Jesus. The man ^{Mark} 5:18 “Asked permission to accompany Him.” But Jesus said: ^{Mark} 5:19 “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” ²⁰ “So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.” The man was shining the light of Truth in the darkness.

When we live according to the Scriptures, we are *light shining in darkness*—it brings glory to God when we live as He *wants* us to live and act and decide. We do not want to go ahead of the Holy Spirit, but we should share God's Truth when He gives the opportunity. ¹ Peter 3:15 “In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

Telling how God brought us to *repentance* and inspired *faith* in us to trust Him for everything—explaining how it *changed* our life—may inspire someone to do the same—giving them the same *living hope* of entering the kingdom clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Since we are *still on earth*, then we could *still be used* by God to help someone else know of the one-way ticket to *Heaven!*

Gospel means *good news*—when a new baby is born in a family, the parents always tell someone—it is *good news!* Knowing we can be forgiven by faith in Christ, means God holds nothing against us—it is *great news!* Jesus died for the sins of the world, and rose to life for the salvation of the world—anyone can have a *new life* in Him from the moment they *believe* in what He did on the cross.

When a person becomes a follower of Christ, they should always look for opportunities to shine the light of Truth in the spiritual darkness of this world. Jesus told Peter and Andrew Matthew 4:19 “*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” It was said that if we are *not fishing*, we are *not following*. We should always care for the *souls* of others—we should never want to see *anyone* end in the flames—ever! It is time to shine our *light* in a very spiritually *dark* world today.

Jesus said we are the *salt* of the earth. *Salt* causes *thirst*—if we are living God’s Truth with our *words*, and *ways*; our *attitudes* and *treatment* of people—being *kind*, *loving*, and a *peace-maker*—others will *see* our life and *hear* our voice, and be *thirsty* for that *same* Truth. Luke 19:10 “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*”

If it is important for *Jesus* to reach out to the lost, then it should be important to *us* to reach out to others by *shining* the *light* of His Truth. 1 Peter 3:15 “*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for*

the hope that you have.” We should be ready to *plant* a seed of His Truth—*then* God can make it grow. The apostle 1 Corinthians 3:6 “*Planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*”

We were *born* to *shine* the light of *Truth* in the *darkness* of this world—let us take advantage of that responsibility with the time we are given on earth. Eternity is just up ahead, and today is the time to take advantage of *living* God’s Truth—*shining* a *light* in the *darkness*.

When we see huge crowds of people at sporting events and entertainment venues, we ponder how many, or if any, of them *know* about God’s plan for this life—if they have *any* idea of who *Jesus* is; what He came to *do* for them; how He always explained the *Truth* to those listening; and what He told *us* we must do—John 13:34 “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*” How the world would *change*, if people did that.

There are *many* in the world who are *not right* with God, because they do *not trust* God; so many millions who do not know anything about God’s Truth or the plan He gave to the world—and therefore will be condemned to the lake of fire eventually.

Statistics says that every *second*, *two* people on earth die. *Millions* go into eternity every *day* totally *unprepared* to meet the Judge of everyone—it is a tragic situation!

One thing we *can* do here on earth, we will *not* be able to do in Heaven—shine a light of Truth in the darkness of this world—we will not be able to give God’s Truth to another except here on earth. If we are so fortunate as to enter God’s kingdom with all the saints, everyone there is already saved.

Yes, everyone is *saved* in Heaven, but the majority are *lost* on earth—2 Corinthians 6:2 “*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day*

of salvation.” Now is when we should be shining the *light* of Truth in the *darkness* of this world—*today* is when we could influence someone to accept God’s Truth and live as God wants them to live.

Living in this world is a good thing if God is *using* our life—if our *ways*, *words*, and *attitudes* are being a right *example* for someone along life’s path. If we follow the advice of our Savior, it could inspire someone to do the *same*—John 13:34 “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*” It is a *new* command if we never followed it before.

There is a good reason Jesus gave this commandment—*He* knew, as *we* should know, that we are either a *follower of the Lord*, or a *follower of the world*. One leads to eternal *life* in Heaven; and the other leads to eternal *death* in Hell. There is no in-between—we are on *one* path or the *other*.

We are to *always* show divine love, forgiveness, and understanding toward others. Showing divine love means *forgiving* everyone of everything; having the love of God in our heart means we do *not* keep laid-up treasure on earth; loving the Savior means *obeying* the Word He has given us—John 13:35 “*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

Our *light shining in the darkness* of today’s world—is *our* responsibility!



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