

Let Your Lights Shine

By: David Burruss

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."*

Jesus outlines our role as God's people in these verses. It can be summed up as influence. We will have a significant impact on the world we live in when we follow the principles of God's word. This is the influence of personal character rather than the result of political upheaval or governmental policy. It is the impact that Jesus had in the first century. It is the result of both what is spoken and done.

Jesus declared in **John 8:12** *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."*

Christians are to let our lights shine in this dark world. We need to shine in our families, in our congregations, in the workplace, at play, and in everything we do. Through our good works, we can guide, lead, and warn those within our circle of influence as well as setting a positive example to those that we do not know is watching us. So, it's very important that we let our lights shine brightly.

To do this, we must be "in the light" ourselves. Paul told the Ephesians "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8). The world must see God in us, and through us. This can be accomplished by:

- Taking Sin Seriously
- Always being Honest
- Doing more than what is expected of you
- Doing good to those who hate you
- Controlling your tongue
- Don't worry, trust God
- Being obedient to God's word

We cannot allow our lights to hide under a basket. In other words, we cannot exhibit any of the following:

- Hypocrisy
- Fear
- Compromise
- Worldliness
- Self-Righteousness
- Lack of Joy

It's also important to remember that despite the power of the sun, it's always night on half the planet. For all the good that we do as Christians, there will always be darkness, but we must not let that discourage or defeat us. We must remember to put our full trust into God. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Roman 8:31)*

So, is your light shining in this dark world? Can the world see God in us and through us? Our purpose is to be the light of the world, and we need to strive to let our lights shine brighter than what they have in the past.

1 Peter 2:9 *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

Sinners are welcomed at North Main church of Christ. If you're struggling, have any needs, or are simply seeking a loving Christian family, we invite you to come and see us.