

The Light of The World

Gen. 1:4-9

Light is the invigorating factor of life and that darkness is the paralyzing factor of life.

Notice tonight as the sun sinks behind the mountains and darkness creeps over the earth how the shades in homes are drawn, voices become hushed, the chickens go to roost and the ox and horse find a place of rest and man goes to sleep. The world is in a paralytic condition.

But in the early morning as the light comes the factories begin their work, the shades are pulled up, voices become loud, chickens fly off their ~~roosts~~, the ox and horse get up, man awakes from his slumber and the world is alive again, why? Because light has come.

Gen. 1:1-5 In the beginning etc.

One who lives today would find it almost impossible to comprehend what the world would be without light. Try to visualize conditions of the world without the sun, the moon, or the stars. Have you ever gazed up into the vast expanse of sky on a summer's night and watched the silvery moon and the gorgeous twinkling stars and wondered upon the utter darkness there would be were it not for these means of light God has so graciously given us? Or how dark the day would be were it not for God's glorious sunshine? It must all agree that without these means of light it would be dark and cold, with no life.

But as we just read in the scriptures we see that God created light before He created life. The earth was without form and was void (or empty). There was no form of government, no system, no life, there was no goal.

As we drove through the "Dallands"

in So. Dakota a place that is rugged, dry, desolate, where nothing can live or grow I think this must be similar to the world before our great Creator spoke the word and brought all the marvels of this world into being. It was a place where nothing could live because of its horrible condition. The earth was a waste, desolate region.

God saw that the world was of ~~no~~ ^{no} use and ~~no~~ ^{no} good so He decided to make something of it. ^{what does it mean as a personal life taken up with sinning against God?} So God simply spoke the word, He said, "Let there be light and there was light" and He saw that it was good. He divided light from darkness, creating day and night and to this day they remain the same.

After God had created light and life still He saw that there was darkness in the world. The world was spiritually dark. Gross sin prevailed in the earth. Men's lives were dark and void of hope.

It was then that God in His love and mercy sent His Son Jesus Christ to bring light to this darkened world.

Jno. 3:16. For God so loved etc.

Jno. 8:12 Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying I am the light of the world etc.

It was and is only through Jesus Christ that men are enlightened, He is the only One ~~through~~ ^{through} from whom we receive spiritual life. There ever Christ went (and He was here on earth darkness vanished), the world was illumined with light, men who were spiritually blind were made to see.

When Christ appeared there was a stirring among the people and their hearts were filled with joy and gladness over the appearing of the light.

^{personal} But there came a time when Christ's ministry on this earth came to an end and Christ

turn to you and to me and He said, "Ye are the light of the world. Matt. 5:14

Christ was the first light, He lighted the lives of others and declared them to be the light of the world. That original great light went back to Heaven but the light He left with us catches from one life to another.

As it was before God created light, and before Christ the great light came so would the world be a horrible place to imagine if it were not for the Christian light.

It is so glad for a Christian nation the great U. S. A. When we compare our nation with other nations how much we can praise God for.

But think what our nation would be with out this Christian life. Let us bring the thought even closer home, It is not would your own community be with out this light? What if there were no Christians, no churches, no ministers, no praying, no one trying to live right. Every body in revelry and sin; no harm to steal, fight, murder, commit adultery, every one doing as he pleased, with out the fear of God. ~~No~~ It is of us would want to live in such a community? Thank God for the light of the gospel.

Let us let our lights shine everywhere, and all the time for when the light goes out, then there is darkness.

Let your light shine before all ⁱⁿ the house.

Matt 5:15 Men do not light their lamps and put them under a vessel, or hang black out shades over the electric bulbs. What good would our street lights be to us if they were blocked out? The lights are put in the house when all my have light they are placed in the darkest places along the streets to give light to those who are traveling there. Every

Christians should let his or her light shine to all that all may see and benefit by the Christian light.

He should let our lights shine before men. Matt 5:16

He should let our lights shine at Church. Did you know that every ~~person~~ ^{Christian} here today is an individual light. And if for some reason there is a Christian friend who should be here and is not there is one dark spot in the Church. Vacant seats and silent voices are poor advertisements for Christ.

Let us shine at home and at work and children, at play.

Don't try to make your light shine but let it shine. Some times it is possible that our lights become a little dim because of rust & spots of dirt and we need shining up a little by the Word which works some what like a Fuller's soap. When all the rust and spots are removed, your light will shine with out effort on your part.

The best way that I can see to keep shining for Jesus is to stay connected with the Power House.

When a wire is disconnected, the lights go out, darkness appears all around. When the Christian becomes disconnected ~~from~~ God, he is dark and cold; in him there is no life, light, or warmth.

John said that Christ would baptize with Holy Ghost & fire. Fire makes heat and light. If you are not burning, it might be well to put on a little oil and let the heavenly breeze blow over your soul until you are in a flame of victory.

Chorus. Lord Keep Me Shining for Thee. A.M.M.