



Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Observe. What are some obvious points that stand out?

Ask. What questions naturally arise from this passage?

Gospel. What is the Gospel and where do you see the gospel in this text?

Apply. How does this text apply to my life at home, school, work, and church?

Overview

The good news of the gospel is that God’s light is shared with us through the work of Jesus Christ! We started the weekend by seeing that God is light. Then we saw that God sent His light into the earth in the person of Jesus Christ. Here, we see that followers of Christ do not hide in the darkness, but rather live as a reflection of the light of Christ, bringing light into a dark world. Good works are not what make you a Christian, but act as evidences that you have received the light of Christ and they shine light on the beauty of God’s character. Christians, then, should not live in continual patterns of sin (darkness) and they should not live in secrecy (under a basket). As lights in a dark world we are to manifest the light of Christ through righteous living and bold proclamation of the gospel.

In this lesson we will see that lights give light. The point of salvation is to share it with others, but the Bible gives us some helpful wisdom about how to be light in a dark world. First, if we are the light, we must live in the light personally (Eph. 5:6-14). Second, as lights invading the darkness, we must walk in wisdom in the midst of the darkness (2 Cor. 6:4-18). Third, even as we share the light, we depend on the Power Source (2 Cor. 4:1-6).





Read Ephesians 5:6-12

- What are the “empty words” and “these things” in verse 6?
 - *It's referring to the sinful lifestyle that is listed in verses 3-5.*
- What is the “wrath of God” in verse 6?
 - *Eternal punishment in hell*
- Who is the wrath of God coming on?
 - *The sons of disobedience*
- Who are the sons of disobedience?
 - *Any person who lives the sinful lifestyle described in verses 3-5*
- So are we all sons of disobedience?
 - *Yes, apart from Christ. Through faith in Christ our sins are forgiven and God's wrath is removed, but apart from that we are disobedient and deserving of judgement.*
- What does verse 7 say about the relationships between Christians and non-Christians?
 - *Do not partner your life with them and live the way that they do.*
- Read verse 8. Why should Christians avoid the same lifestyles of their non-Christian friends?
 - *Because Christians are no longer in the darkness. They have been called into the light.*
 - *What does that mean? Read Colossians 1:13-14. Darkness is bondage. Because we have been delivered from the bondage of darkness into the freedom of the light, we should not return to the works of darkness, but instead should walk in the light.*
- Instead of partnering in sin, what does verse 10 command children of light to do?
 - *Discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*
 - *What does that mean? Instead of continuing in sin, Christians should always be thinking about whether or not their actions and attitudes are pleasing to the Lord. We should be intentional about bringing glory to God in all we do (1 Cor. 10:31).*
 - *How can you be intentional about glorifying God at home, school, sports, etc.?*

Application of this passage: If we are indeed the light of the world, we must live in the light and not the darkness.





Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

- What does “unequally yoked with unbelievers” mean?
 - *It means not partnering in life with those who are not Christians.*
 - *That includes friendships, dating relationships, and marriage.*
- What reason does Paul give for not being unequally yoked?
 - *He compares several things including light and darkness, essentially saying that the two things can't go together because they are opposites. By nature, light can't be dark and dark can't be light. In the same way, believers cannot be united with unbelievers.*
- Is it wrong to have non-Christian friends? Why or why not?
 - *It's not wrong to have non-Christian friends. If we are called to share the gospel and make disciples, that implies that we **should** have relationships with nonbelievers.*
- When do you cross the line in “depth of friendship” with nonbelievers?
 - *This probably applies on an individual basis depending on the maturity of a person, but there are still a couple of general principles that apply:*
 - *When you are being influenced instead of influencing.*
 - *When you are being led into sinful actions or environments.*
- If you are a Christian, is it a bad idea to date a non-Christian?
 - *Yes, because you will undoubtedly be influenced by anyone you date, so you are opening yourself up to be influenced into sin by a nonbeliever.*
- How do you balance having intentional relationships with lost people while not being influenced into sin by them?
 - *Our relationships with lost people should always be with the intentional purpose of showing and sharing the gospel. That doesn't mean that every conversation we have is about Jesus, but it does mean we seek to never do anything that negatively affects our witness to them. It also means that we should love and respect all nonbelievers, regardless of their beliefs.*
- In verse 16-17, Paul quotes the OT when the Lord made a covenant with His people and then commanded them to be separate. How do Christians look separate from a lost world?
 - *Answers will vary*
- Read Matt 5:16. What's the point of our separateness?
 - *God's glory*

Application of this passage: As lights in the darkness, we must be careful not to be consumed by the darkness. We must walk in wisdom by building intentional relationships with unbelievers but not partnering with them in a sinful lifestyle.





2 Corinthians 4:1-6

- What is “this ministry” in verse 1?
 - *Paul is referring to the gospel ministry that magnifies the glory and grace of God and transforms the lives of people (3:18).*
- What does Paul mean by “we refuse to practice cunning or tamper with God’s Word”?
 - *He means that he refuses to manipulate or lie in order to gain converts to Christianity.*
- Instead of manipulating people, how will he go about sharing the gospel?
 - *In verse 2 he says, “by the open statement of truth.” So if people are saved they will be truly saved because they have heard the word of truth.*
- But what about those who reject the truth? Why do they reject it?
 - *Verse 4 - the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers*
- Who is the god of this world?
 - *The devil. See Ephesians 2:2.*
- What has he blinded unbelievers to?
 - *The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.*
 - *What is the gospel and how does it glorify Christ?*
 - *The gospel is that that we can have a restored relationship with God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
 - *This brings glory to Christ because He is the one who secures salvation for all those who believe in Him. He is our Savior and worthy of our worship!*
- What happens to those who go from blind to seeing?
 - *God shines the light of the knowledge of the glory of Christ into their hearts.*
- What does this passage teach us about our role in sharing the light of Christ?
 - *We shouldn’t manipulate people with false or watered-down gospel*
 - *We should share the truth of the gospel with our words and our actions.*
 - *We are the ones that share the light of the gospel, but God is the one that shines the light of the gospel into their hearts. We are not responsible for people’s belief. God is.*
- Does the gospel depend on your persuasiveness and ability?
 - *No. How is that helpful to know?*
 - *It takes the pressure off of you and puts it onto God. All we can do is be faithful to share. God does the actual work of salvation.*

Application of this passage: We have the responsibility of sharing the gospel, but it is God alone who can open hearts and minds to the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.

