

6-21-20 THREE PRACTICAL USES FOR LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE

Introduction: Today is Father's day, and we usually would have a Father's day dinner and no evening service. With the current state of things and the concern over the covid pandemic, we have canceled the dinner. So we will have an evening service tonight. This morning we gave out a little gift to all the men of the church. I think it will come in handy for many of you. I want to use the flashlight that we gave away as an object lesson for the message this morning. The flashlight has three modes. So these three modes of operation I want to use to illustrate the three points of my message.

Notice first of all it is a flashlight.
Secondly it can act as a lantern.
Thirdly it will flash red so it is a warning light.

I want to show how each of these operations are good illustrations or object lessons for the important roles that every man needs to exhibit as a leader of his family and in the community.

First of all, consider, the use of a flashlight is primarily used to direct your way in the dark. A flashlight is used to direct your path in the dark.

I. THE FIRST PRACTICAL USE OF LIGHT IS TO DIRECT YOU.

1. MEN NEED TO BE DIRECTED BY THE WORD OF GOD.

Psalms 119:105 {Nun.} Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

So much of the world is in utter confusion today, and that is because there are no absolutes. What every man needs to be a leader in his family is to be led by the Word of God

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, "That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

God has given us His Word for us to be perfected, and to know how we should live.

Why do we put our trust in men, in doctors, in our scientists?

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

The essence of Humanism is to trust in man without belief that there is a supernatural God who can intervene in the affairs of this life.

God's word is the true light that lights our path.

All the problems we are facing in our present time is because people have gone their own way, and have rejected the Lord and His Word!

1. CONSIDER WHY WE NEED A FLASHLIGHT TO LIGHT OUR PATH AT NIGHT. LET GOD'S WORD BE THAT LIGHT.

If it is dark out and you can't see your way, you need light to see where you are going.

Without light you will trip, you can fall, you will bump into things.

This world is in darkness and confusion.

The world is full of evil, deception, and even danger.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

2. THE BIBLE GIVES US WISDOM HOW TO LIVE AND WHAT TO DO.

There are many, many verses in the Bible that teach that the Word of God is profitable to direct you in this life.

I Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

When we need direction, look to the Word of God. When the Bible speaks to a subject you need not look any further.

What was the sin of Balaam? Was it not that God told him directly what His will was, yet he sought for God to say something else?

God told him not to go to Balak, who wanted him to curse the nation of Israel. Why did he ask Him again? He asked Him again because really in his heart he wanted to do contrary to what God clearly told him to do.

How many times I have heard people say, they know what the Bible says BUT. Everything after the "but.." is sin.

I have a little thing that I do when I am trying to determine the will of God in a matter. I take a sheet of paper, and write down what I am trying to decide to do, and then I put three columns, One is what are the positives, second is the negatives, and the third is what the Bible says to support the negative or positive. Usually there is always a positive for a negative, but there is usually only one that the Bible supports. Now sometimes you may think of a verse that may support one way or the other, but in the end the truth of God's world always wins out and I find that the Bible will either lean more to the positive or more to the negative.

Let God's word direct your path.

I am totally amazed how people make decisions based on whim, want, and capriciousness. Inevitably, every time I have made mistakes it is because I did not use the process I mentioned above.

God's Word is written to direct our paths.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

This life is a journey, and the world is a very dark place. It is a dangerous place filled with wicked people. Now that we are in the end times, it is even more dangerous and wicked,.

We are living in perilous times, and we need to be directed of the Lord to know how to live, what to do, and how to live.

When Jesus was tempted of the devil in the wilderness, for each temptation our Lord had a biblical answer. How about you? Do you have biblical answers to life's trials and temptations?

This is what it means when it was written:

Deuteronomy 8:3 that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

II. THE SECOND PRACTICAL USE OF LIGHT IS TO LEAD OTHERS TO SAFTY.

MEN NEED TO BE A LIGHTHOUSE TO OTHERS.

Throughout the ages God has ordained that His people be a light to the world!
He said of Israel:

Isaiah 42:5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Isaiah 42:6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles:

Isaiah 42:7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

In the New Testament to He said to us:

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Every man in this church needs to be a lighthouse.

I just read a story about a man who lived in a city that had a port that was surrounded by dangerous rocks. Every time there was a major storm many many ships would stray off course and hit the rocks and lives would be lost. He asked people in the city to raise up a lighthouse but no one cared enough to support his idea. Then the man in the city decided to do something about it. He sold everything he had and bought a piece of property near the shore and built a lighthouse to live in. He saved hundreds of lives but still many would still go ship wrecked. As he grew older, he prayed others would get a burden to help in the lighthouse. Little by little other people in that city started to volunteer to help out in his lighthouse.

Jesus said,

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

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.

Your good works are your light. You need to let that light shine, so others can see it. This is why I wrote those two tracts, Thank You, and Don't Thank Me.

It's your light that will draw men to Christ. Words are cheap, your actions speak louder than your words.

Jesus said, Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Consider:

1. *Light gives life:*

The reason God wants us to be light is because He wants men to be saved, and the Bible says,

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Right now the heartbeat of God is not that Black Lives Matter, but that black lives get saved.

Not that white lives prosper but that white lives get saved.

Not that yellow lives get more business in China, but that yellow lives get saved.

Realize that if it furthered the salvation of the nation of Israel that they get right with Him, He sold them into slavery, and it had nothing to do with their skin color. God is not interested in your freedom in this life or your prosperity in this life, He is interested in your salvation in the next. If it takes putting you through adversity to get you saved, He will put you through adversity.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

You know what that means, preach the gospel to every person of every color, and God is working all things to bring men to repentance.

If it takes bringing a coronavirus to the world it is so men think about eternity.
If there are riots in the streets it is to bring men to a realization that they need Christ!

I wonder, if I put out a plea to get people to get into a bus and go to some city to share the gospel if I could get as great a response as ANTIFA does to get these thugs excited about an opportunity to loot and do their mischief. What we need is an army of men who are excited to share their faith.

Where are men of courage to share their faith? They are all hiding in their houses, afraid of getting the cooties, and the coronavirus. Do we really believe people are going to hell? Do you know that people are seeking answers right now and where are God's people?

Look, do we believe that men like Stephen were right in what they did?

Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Who led Paul the Apostle to the Lord? Let me suggest to you that it was Stephen. Paul never forgot how he was part of the mob that killed Stephen.

The life that the Lord wants our light to produce are souls, and often those souls do not come without sacrifice on our part, through our good works, preaching, and witness.

I cry out to everyone. IS THERE NOT A CAUSE? We have a huge enemy defying the God of the Bible, and everyone is running away from that enemy. What we need are men like David who will fight the Goliaths of our day with the sling shot of the light of God's Word, and the light of their good works.

2. *Light dispels confusion.*

Light moves in a straight line,

Light in the Bible is used for righteousness, clarity God's Word.

Darkness is used to illustrate confusion, evil, sin, and crookedness.

Darkness is the absence of light or the diffusion of light.

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Matthew 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Light moves in straight lines, if you want to strike a straight line use a laser light to do it. I love tools but one tool I do not have is a laser light level. How often it would have come in handy. Recently, I wanted to replace a few storage trailers with a storage

building, but I have run into a snag. I never realized how out of level the land was until a man came with his laser level and showed me.

We need to be God's laser level to the world. They think they are all right. They think they are straight, but we need to take the level of God's Word and show them just how crooked they are and in need of a saviour.

III. THE THIRD PRACTICAL USE OF LIGHT IS TO FLASH A WARNING SIGNAL.

Ezekiel 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Ezekiel 3:18 *When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

Ezekiel 3:20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: *because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, **warning every man**, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

The flashlight I gave you men today has a third feature. If you hit the button again it flashes red. If your broke down on the road, it has a magnetic bottom, that you can place on your car and let it flash red to warn people to avoid hitting your car. It becomes a warning light.

The Bible says,

II Corinthians 2:15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

II Corinthians 2:16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

The world does not like to be warned.

The world does not like our red light.

The world is annoyed by our flashing red light.

BUT GOD TOLD US TO FLASH THE RED LIGHT AND SPEAK OUT.

Paul issued out warnings:

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

We are to be a voice of warning!

They are not going to hear this warning from anyone else but us!

Flash the red light. There is danger up ahead, we all must stand before God someday and be judged.

In that day, true justice will prevail. Today justice is slanted based on political motives. We have mob rule. Politicians can be swayed by angry mobs. There will be no jury in that day, there will be no lawyers in the courts of heaven. You will stand before God and God alone.

He will tell you what you did.

He will tell you the verdict.

There will be no plea bargains in that day.

Jesus will be the judge of the just and the unjust, He will judge the living and the dead. There will be a judgment day for all.

What should flash our Red light and warn people.

1. WE NEED TO WARN PEOPLE THAT WHEN YOU DIE YOU WILL HAVE TO STAND BEFORE GOD AND BE JUDGED FOR ETERNITY.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Jesus taught that there is a hell and we should be a warning to all that judgment day is coming.

Matthew 5:26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2. OUR RED LIGHT NEEDS TO FLASH AND WARN CHRISTIANS ALSO.

II 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.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

We need eternal security more than social security.

CONSIDER THE THREE FEATURES OF THIS FLASHLIGHT.

- 1. IT IS FIRST OF ALL A FLASHLIGHT TO LIGHT YOUR PATH AT NIGHT. Let God's world be your flashlight in this dark world.**
- 2. SECONDLY IT IS A LANTERN, You need to be a lantern to others, to direct them to Christ in salvation. Your good works are that light that should draw men to Christ.**
- 3. Thirdly it flashes a red warning signal, we need to sound the warning to all men, saved and lost, that someday we will stand before God.**

Take your flashlight and let it remind you of these three things that you need to be doing.

Let the word of God direct you.

Put the world of God into action through you.

Warn men about what the Word of God says about Judgment day.