

## The Light of the World

Jonathan McAnulty

Jesus wanted His followers to influence the world. "You are the salt of the earth," He told them. (Matthew 5:13) He then added, "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." (Matthew 15:14-16; NKJV)

This theme of light in relationship to God's people is one that is expounded upon throughout the New Testament. God is, tellingly, the Father of lights. (James 1:17) The Lord's saints are to walk as "children of light," (Ephesians 5:8; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:5) receiving and manifesting the light of Christ in themselves. (Ephesians 5:13-14) In reminding Christians of the difference between those in Christ and those in the world, Paul asks, "what relationship does light have with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14) Christians should remember that they have been called out of darkness and into the light of God. (1 Peter 2:9)

Over and over again, the image of light, shining into darkness, is used to convey the sense of what God wants from His people. They are to be a lamp He has lit, and placed on a stand in order to give light to all. They are to be the shining city of lights set on a hill where all can see it. They are to have a light that cannot be hidden.

This light is to be manifested in the doing of good works (Matthew 5:16), through heeding the word of God (2 Peter 1:19), through living according to the pattern God provides (1 John 1:7; Philippians 2:16), through loving-kindness shown to our brethren (1 John 2:10), through sobriety and being ready for Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:6-10), through patient cheerfulness in the face of trials and labors (Philippians 2:15) and by exposing the unprofitable works of sin and darkness (Ephesians 5:8-13).

Unfortunately, men frequently want to hide the light that God has lit. Unbelievers have historically sought to suppress the teaching of the truth of the Gospel. In extreme cases, persecution, execution and banishment have all been used to try and keep Christians from shining the light of Christ. Nor should we think that such behavior is a relic of the distant past. Those who take the time to measure such things estimate that more Christians are persecuted for their religion in the modern age than were ever persecuted in the days of those Roman Emperors who gladly burned Christians at the stake and threw them to the lions.

In less extreme cases, Christians are told to be quiet about their faith; to stop trying and convert other people. Some countries have even made such attempts to convert non-believers a crime. While such attempts to quash Christianity are unfortunate, they are not unexpected and they have never been successful. Today, the word of God is available in more languages than ever before, and is more readily accessible than ever. With each passing year it is only more so.

As Christ implied, God did not give light to the world in Christ in order for men to hide it. Men are unable to suppress the light of Christ for long, and always that light will continue to shine through the true followers of Christ.

More unfortunate then, than the world seeking to extinguish the light of Christ is when Christians themselves work to cover up, or hide, that same light in their own lives. The world cannot extinguish the light, but believers can suppress the light God has given them. They can suppress it and hide it by refusing to do good works. Or through living as the rest of the world lives, without distinction. Or through failing to show the love of Christ, and instead acting hateful and crass. Or through constant complaining and grumbling. Or through refusing to share the Gospel message with those around them.

The light of Christ cannot be hidden. If a man let's Christ shine through Him, there is nothing the world can do to quench that light. It will burn eternally. But if those who have been given the light work to remove it from their own lives; we have free will. God will let us. We can successfully fail to let the light shine within us. But Christians should ask themselves: if the light of Christ does not shine in their lives, does not the removal of light allow darkness to come back in? And when the darkness returns to the soul, what does it bring with it?

## Things to know...

Help is needed with communion preparation for the remainder of the year. If you'd be willing to, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board by the entrance.

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Ladies Bible Study - The Crown

Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

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## Men's Meeting - July 21st after AM service

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Suki Kirchner 6/24  
Brandon Fourman 6/25

Patsy Muter 6/29  
Bryan Allen 7/9

Matthew Wilson 7/21  
Michelle Buckingham 7/25

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## Happy Anniversary

Rick & Lois Ferris 6/25

Jerry & Carrie Thompson 7/4

Judah & Michelle Gasper 7/26

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## Super Saturday VBS

Thank you Chelsea, Dianna and Stephanie for your work in getting VBS planned and set up! Thank you to all that pitched in and helped make VBS successful, we couldn't have

done it without you! We had 28 kids and 18 adults attend!

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## Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	June 23, 2024 AM	June 23, 2024 PM	June 30, 2024 AM
Greeter	Tom Muter	Duane Kemp	Brandon Fourman
Announcements	Jason Bang	Jerry Thompson	Tim Bang
Song Leading	Duane Kemp	Jason Bang	Jason Bang
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Tim Bang	Duane Kemp	Tim Bang
Lord's Supper Comments	Jerry Thompson	Tom Muter	Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Brandon Fourman	Judah Gasper	Seth Arrell
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Seth Arrell	Chris McGiffin	Jerry Thompson

**This week's Bible Verse**

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:8

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**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders
- \*Bible Studies currently being held
- \*Search for our new minister
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - health & comfort
- \*Rena Morgan - encouragement & health
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ in TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- \*Larry Bey - Parkinson's/health
- \*Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dementia and health issues
- \*Debby Braefield (Friend of the Bang's) - health
- \*Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & comfort
- \*Luanne Listner (wife of Tim Bang's friend, Jim) - health
- \*Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health - prostate cancer
- \*Lynn Thompson - health, needs hip surgery (pray for insurance to approve)
- \*Karen Oylar (Stephanie Bang's friend) - health, strength & energy, PET scan results
- \*Tom Cruze (Phyllis Caldwell's nephew) - health
- \*Laura McGiffin - health
- \*Viola Schultz - health

- \*Family and friends grieving the passing of our brother in Christ, Tim Petty
- \*Dustin & Sharon Desarro - asking for prayers
- \*Michelle Gasper - health issues
- \*Marjorie Seiber - recovering from surgery
- \*Paulette and her family - asking for prayers
- \*Michael Silcott (Kemp's Son-in-law) - health, undergoing chemo treatments
- \*Rhonda Gaynor - back pain
- \*Evelyn Lam - upcoming eye surgery 6/21
- \*Tammy Sieber - Recovering from surgery
- \*David Netzly (friend of the Bang's) - recovering from surgery due to complications with his diabetes
- \*Joyce Metcalf - recovering from a fall and broken wrist

**How can we be praying for YOU?**



**GREENVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
CHRIST CENTERED. BIBLE BASED. FAMILY ORIENTED.

June 23, 2024

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd  
Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

Sunday, June 16		Wednesday, June 18	
Bible Classes	29	Bible Classes	31
AM Attendance	50	Contribution	\$923.00
PM Attendance	29		

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.