

## ***The Visibility of the Disciple***

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The Lord taught with such clarity and depth. His word reaches the deepest part of the spirit of man providing the kind of light that lights the world. I set before you the text under discussion, Mathew 5:14-16 (Amplified Bible).

*<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a peck measure, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men that they may see your <sup>[z]</sup>moral excellence and your praiseworthy, noble, and good deeds and <sup>[aa]</sup>recognize and honor and praise and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.*

In examining these verses, there are three things which come to my mind. Those things are (1) who we are, (2) what we must do, and (3) why we must do it. Put another way, it states the following:

1. We are the light of the world.
2. We must let our lights shine in an excellent manner before men.
3. God will be praised by these men as a result of our efforts.

### **We are the light of the world**

The very statement itself indicates that the world is in darkness. The depth of that darkness is such that when the proper light is shown, it will be perceived as the kind of light which provides the kind of hope that mankind desperately needs. It will indeed prove the existence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ because they are the originators of that light. They are the sources of it. The light which we have in us is a “derived” light. We have light in us as the result of having obtained it from them. But there are some things which are needful to bring these points more clearly to the surface. Let us look at some scriptures that will shed light on our first point--we are the light of the world.

- *<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free. (John 8:31, 32, Amplified).*
- *<sup>7</sup> But if we [really] are living and walking in the Light, as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations]. (I John 1:7, Amplified).*
- *<sup>8</sup> Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit. (Romans 8:1, Amplified).*

The questions which are raised by these verses are weighty. They demand answers of the most honest kind. Do we abide in the word of the Lord? Do we live according to his word? Are we walking in the light? Do we live after the dictates of the Spirit? We cannot rush through these questions. Our answers to them must be sound. The spirit within us fully knows the truth about us, and God knows our spirit.

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the <sup>[b]</sup>breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature],

exposing *and* sifting *and* analyzing *and* judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open *and* exposed, naked *and* defenseless to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do. (Hebrew 4:12, 13, Amplified).

If we find ourselves operating outside the boundaries of God's word, we would do well to listen to the words of David in the Psalms. ***"I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands."*** (Psalms 119:59, 60. New International Version). To walk contrary to God is to place us in the darkness with the very world we are told to enlighten. Our behavior must be such that it is considered **peculiar** by the world. ***"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."***(I Peter 2:9).