

Let Your Light Shine

By: Clay Barnes



Great things are expected of you, as a Christian. “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 lamp

stand, 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 5:14-16**). Each day is a decision to arise and show forth a lifestyle that extols the virtues of our God. We are to be good examples, worthy of imitation. How sad it is then, when followers of Jesus Christ allow things to hide that light! Let's examine a few of the things.

Living a life of conformity is one obvious example of how we can be guilty of hiding our light. How can one stand out and be noticeable, if his or her life looks like everyone else's? Many years ago, marketers of Coca-Cola were looking for distinctiveness in their product that would set it apart. One solution was the patented shape of their glass bottles. People used to reach down into a cooler when they would select a soft drink and from that angle, most all bottles would look the same. Coca-Cola's stated goal was to so shape their bottle so that patrons could tell it apart from all others, even in the dark. The approach worked.

As mortals, we may appear similar to just about every other person, but, as Christians, our lives are to be so distinct,

that others cannot help but see the difference. Paul said, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (**Romans 12:1-2**). Our lights are hidden, and God's will is not proven, when we live worldly lives.

Our lights are also hidden when we lack knowledge of God's word. Disciples are exhorted to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (**2 Peter 3:18**). But, when Christians cannot be relied upon to utilize the word of God in distinguishing the difference between right and wrong, darkness abounds and destruction is at the door. (**Hosea 4:6; Hebrews 5:12-14**). The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (**Ephesians 7:17**). Therefore, it is a weapon of our spiritual warfare. Do not allow that weapon to grow dull and rusty due to neglect. Rather, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (**2 Timothy 2:15**).

Is your light hidden? If so, then resolve today to study God's word diligently, that you might learn to live a life of distinction. Let your light shine!