

(Matthew 5:14-16, NIV84)

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Right about now you are probably feeling like a lamp under a bowl. You've been confined to your house, shut off from your friends and neighbors, not allowed to go to church with your fellow church members. In many cases you may not even be seeing your children or grandchildren. How can you shine under these circumstances?

Don't open a beer to cry in, and don't sing the old dirge: "Oh, Woe Is Me."

Rather, open your Bible to words of encouragement and open your eyes to the opportunities that surround you to let your light shine.

Make use of the various forms of technology available to you. You can go on social-media to offer words of encouragement, or send a thoughtful email, or you might even use that tried and true technology known as a pen and paper (it still works, but it doesn't autocorrect), or simply pick up the phone and call. To whom might you reach out to brighten their day today?

"You are the light of the world." While Jesus doesn't expect that you will shine to everyone in the world on this very day, He does want you to shine.

Think about whose day you might help to brighten up, and the SHINE!

Lighting the world up with you in Christ, Pastor Golm

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May 6

Walking "in the Light of the Lord"

Come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. Isaiah 2:5

We've all heard the saying: "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." Properly understood, there is much wisdom in this adage. It is so easy to fall into the habit of bewailing conditions in the world or in the church, that some of us have become experts at condemning almost anything and everything of which we personally disapprove. In other words, our lips have become accustomed to cursing the darkness.

At times that may be called for. But more frequently we serve our Lord and other people better by lighting a candle. Our text tells us that we are to "walk in the light of the Lord". If we walk in his light (the light of love and truth and wisdom), we will be lighting candles all along the way.

And in doing so we will be bringing not only light but also help and healing to all whose lives touch ours.

We are reminded of a certain dedicated woman, a Red Cross volunteer, who spent two days a week for more than thirty consecutive years serving as a Grey Lady [a group known as the Grey Ladies were volunteers working with the American Red Cross during WWII] in a large city hospital. A recovered cancer patient, she spent much of her time radiating hope and cheer to others who were living through the same ordeal. So effective were her efforts that one of the staff surgeons, after visiting a depressed cancer patient, would write on the bedside chart: "Have Mrs. X spend some time with her." Why? Because he knew that her very presence would be sure to "light up candles".

Let each of us ask ourself frankly: What has been the greater emphasis in my life-cursing the darkness or lighting candles? Have I been "walking in the light of the Lord", sharing his love and joy with all whose lives touch mine? Surely, in this darkening world it is our Father's will that we hold high the light of his Gospel-and that we miss no opportunity to let it shine.

With Thine own love may I be filled  
And by Thy Holy Spirit willed,  
That all I touch, where'er I be,  
May be divinely touched by Thee.