

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their heart March 2024

Let your light so shine

By Steve Huston



With the celebration of our Lord Jesus' resurrection at the end of this month, we come to the wonderful recognition that even the darkness of death couldn't snuff out He who is the Light of the world (John 8:12).

What joy, to know that God sent His only begotten Son as an atonement for our sin; that Jesus "was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification (Rom. 4:25);" and that with child-like faith we can walk obediently in the light given to us through the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. How can we, as believers, help but rejoice in the fact that: *"He lives, He lives! Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He*

lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!"

Amazing! This Light that sin, death, or the grave could not conquer – Jesus – lives within each genuine believer. Those who have put their faith in the atoning work of Christ and have been given "the power to become the sons of God" are vessels of clay through which this "Light of the world" now shines.

What does Jesus say about being such lamps to the world? "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16)

A light is never more noticeable than in the dark. The stars are still in the sky during the day, but

it's at night that we see their very distant light. As the darkness of this world grows, it's vital that the Light of Truth shines through our speech and conduct. May the light of loving our enemies and the good works of walking by faith "so shine before men...and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The increasing darkness of this world is one thing, but consider this: During the dark times of our own personal life, the Light shows even brighter. When our life seems to be falling apart, it's then that it's hardest to let our light shine before men. It's then that the lampshade of pride or self-pity or doubt can act as a "bushel," inhibiting others from seeing the goodness of our Heavenly Father and His provision of peace and joy in the midst of our personal storms.

During times of personal darkness, it's most difficult to let our lights shine, but shine they must! It's a powerful light which tes-

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might, but by the Father's grace, the atoning work and resurrection of the Son, and the enabling of the Holy Spirit.

tifies to the goodness of our God, not by some intellectual assent to a Biblical understanding of Truth, but to the personal keeping and compassionate, loving care of the Father for His own. It's during these dark times that our clay vessels, filled with He who IS the Light of the world, shine brightest, are most noticeable, and it's then that our Heavenly Father receives the most glory. Such light, seen through our personal times of darkness, serves as a great witness to those who are without Christ and as a great encouragement and comfort to those who are in Christ. This light can serve to draw the unbeliever, while giving an assurance of God's keeping grace to the one who has already put their faith in Christ.

The importance of letting our light shine before men cannot be overstated, neither can the fact that any light we have must be attributed to God. Whatever light shines from us is not due to our own

A story adapted from *Our Daily Bread* illustrates the importance of letting our light shine: There was an elderly Christian widow who lived in a cottage on a cliff overlooking the sea. When debris from wrecked ships washed ashore, she would feel distressed. O, how her heart was pierced when she'd hear the agonizing cries of dying crewmen, as the storm dashed their ship upon the rocks. One stormy night, when the howling wind burdened her with an increased sense of compassion and concern, she had a thought. What if she placed a lamp in her front window? Would it act as a small beacon, warning unwary seamen of the treacherous coast? Could lives be saved by this simple act? Later, she learned that the lamp's light had been seen and had aided some sailors who were lost in the raging storm. From then on, she kept it burning from dusk to sunrise. Over the years, many lives were saved.

For our light to shine as it ought, we must not be focused on the storm, ourselves, or even the perishing. Instead, we must keep pointing to our Heavenly Father. Whether our storms are physical, financial, emotional, or spiritual, even in the midst of persecution, let us take stock of our true circumstance: We are in Christ and He abides with us. Whatever comes our way is Father-filtered and He is worthy of praise. Might our faith cry with Job, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him."

The reality of sins forgiven and the assurance that God sees us through both the dark days of this world and the darkness that infringes upon our personal lives should cause us to lift our voices and proclaim: "*Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find, None other is so loving, so good and kind. - He lives, He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!*"

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