

LET HIS LIFE SHINE ... THAT THEY MAY LIVE

Matthew 5:14&16 ESV SLIDE

You are the light of the world.

¹⁶... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

What is our best understanding of DARKNESS?
WHERE DOES DARKNESS COME FROM?

SLIDE DARKNESS IS THE ABSENCE OF LIGHT

Darkness is not something created ...
It's what existed before Creation.

Genesis 1:1-2 NIV

In the beginning ... the earth was formless and empty, [and] darkness was over the surface of the deep [waters] ...

But then there was God ...

Genesis 1:3 NIV SLIDE

And GOD SAID, 'LET THERE BE LIGHT!!!' And there was light.

GOD CREATED THE SUN TO SHINE ... and the darkness fled.

The Sun is the Natural Light of the World.

Each morning it rises and banishes the darkness bringing Light and Life.

A glorious sunny day floods the world with warmth ...

And people everywhere ... all creatures and plants ... rejoice in the Light of Life ...

The Sun brings LIFE to all living things.

Without the Light of the Sun ... there would be no LIFE,
ONLY LIFELESS DARKNESS ...

And so it is with Spiritual Light ...

WITHOUT SPIRITUAL LIGHT THERE IS ONLY SPIRITUAL
DARKNESS

But John 8:12 tells us –

SLIDE JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Just as the Sun brings Natural **Light** and the darkness flees ...

So Jesus came as the **True Spiritual Light** of the world ...
And the Darkness Dissolved.

He said –

John 12:46 NIV **SLIDE**

*I have come into the world as a **Light** so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*

WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ...

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH SPIRITUAL DARKNESS – BECAUSE THERE IS NO SPIRITUAL LIGHT WITHOUT HIM.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

HE CAME AS THE LIGHT TO A DARK WORLD

As Isaiah prophesied –

Isaiah 9:2 BSB **SLIDE**

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great **light**; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a **light** has dawned.*

THE LIGHT of JESUS IS THE ONLY ANSWER TO A WORLD TRAPPED IN DARKNESS.

HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

NOW LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

THE LIGHT of JESUS LIFE OVERCOMES THE DARKNESS ...

But THE DARKNESS CANNOT OVERCOME THE LIGHT

The darkness is only weak and powerless ...

As John says –

John 1:5 NLT

The **LIGHT SHINES** in the darkness, and THE DARKNESS CAN NEVER EXTINGUISH IT.

BUT HERE'S THE AMAZING THING –

SINCE JESUS HAS GONE BACK TO HEAVEN ...

HE HAS LEFT THE LIGHT OF HIS LIFE HERE ... IN YOU AND ME

WE ARE NOW THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD ...

JUST AS HE WAS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Matthew 5:14 ESV

You are the **light** of the world.

SLIDE WHO ME?

How can I ever be like Jesus?

How can I speak like He did?

How can I bring people to Him?

THE ANSWER IS – IT'S NOT YOU THAT DOES IT

Romans 8:11 NLT

*The **Spirit of God**, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.*

THE **SAME SPIRIT** THAT WAS IN JESUS IS IN YOU ...

THE VERY SPIRIT OF GOD THAT WAS IN JESUS, IS IN US TOO.

It's true that Jesus had the Holy Spirit in fullness. (John 3:34) And we don't have that. But as we yield to God - to His ways and the Holy Spirit - we can be continually filled with the His Spirit and grow more and more to be like Jesus. (See Ephesians 5:18 – '*be being filled with the Spirit*' – an ongoing action)

WHEN JESUS WENT AWAY ...

HE SENT THE SPIRIT IN HIS PLACE

TO LEAD YOU AND GUIDE YOU ... AND SPEAK THROUGH YOU

Matthew 10:20 BSB

*For it will not be you speaking, but **the Spirit of your Father** speaking through you.*

*Let's Look at 2 Things About This Light -
WHAT THIS LIGHT IS?*

SLIDE 1. IT IS THE LIGHT OF HOPE

JESUS BROUGHT **HOPE** TO MANKIND ...

THE HOPE OF A GOOD TOMORROW

Dictionary.com says: '**hope**' is *the feeling that something that is wanted or expected can be attained or achieved.*

It says of '**hopelessness**' – *having no hope, despairing, desperate*

IN JESUS IS HOPE ... WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS

We live in such a needy dark world.

You only have to look around you ... to see the despair on people's faces.

THIS WORLD IS IN DARKNESS WITH NO WAY OUT.

Without the **Light** ... people have No **Eternal Hope** ...

Ephesians 2:12 BSB

*Remember that at that time you were Separate from Christ, Alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel, and Strangers to the Covenants of the Promise, **without hope and without God in the world.***

**THE WORLD OFFERS NO ETERNAL HOPE
THEY ONLY HAVE WISHFUL THINKING**

*People dare not think about tomorrow –
The whole world seems unstable ...
So many problems mounting up around them ...
Everything seems to fall to pieces ...
It just seems like Murphy's Law –*

'ANYTHING THAT CAN GO WRONG WILL GO WRONG.'

WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE???

**JESUS CAME ... SHINING THE LIGHT OF HOPE FOR MANKIND.
IN HIM ... THERE IS A TOMORROW ... AND IT IS A GOOD
TOMORROW.**

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope and a future.**"*

FATHER GOD HAS A PLAN OF **HOPE** ...

PEOPLE CAN FIND **LIGHT** AND **HOPE** IN THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

**THE ONLY HOPE FOR MANKIND IS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS
ONLY BY FAITH IN HIM ... IS THERE ANY FUTURE ...**

AND HE SAYS TO US –

Matthew 5:14 ESV

*You are the **light** of the world.*

YOU ARE THE HOPE OF THIS WORLD

YOU SEE THE **LIGHT** ... YOU ARE THE **LIGHT**
YOU ARE THE **ONLY LIGHT** IN THIS WORLD.
BE THE LIGHT ... LET YOUR **LIGHT** SHINE ...
JESUS IS NOT HERE TO DO IT NOW ...

PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW HIM ... CANNOT SEE WHAT WE CAN
SEE ... **HOW CAN THEY SEE WITHOUT LIGHT?**

BUT YOU ARE THE HOPE OF THE WORLD –
SLIDE TO BRING LIGHT INTO THEIR DARKNESS

AND WHEN YOU SHINE YOUR BRIGHT **LIGHT** TO THEM ...
SLIDE A PERSON SEES **HOPE** FOR THE FIRST TIME.
They find the **Hope** of Joy and Peace ... as they see it in you ...

WHEN WE SPEAK ABOUT JESUS AND THE **HOPE** WE HAVE,
THEY CAN SEE ... AND BELIEVE ... AND COME ALIVE WITH THE
HOPE THAT JESUS BRINGS.

WHAT IS THIS LIGHT?

SLIDE 2. IT IS THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Jesus came as **LIFE** to mankind ...
JESUS CAME BRINGING **TRUE LIFE**
ONLY IN HIM IS **LIFE** ...
THERE IS NO **TRUE LIFE** TO BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE

*The world only offers Fake Life –
People try and make so much of their own life ... trying to fill it with
satisfaction and pleasure ... as if they could make it last forever ...
Or they seek some great purpose ... trying to make their lives count
for something.*

But the physical life of humanity ... is so weak ... short ... and
meaningless – like a candle that burns for a short while ... and then
flickers and is no more ...

Listen to this Soliloquy by Shakespeare from **Macbeth** ...
speaking on this subject ... likening man's life to a Flimsy Candle.

SLIDE Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle.
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

This physical life has little meaning without the TRUE LIFE that Jesus brought to **Light**.

THIS TRUE LIFE IS THE VERY LIFE OF GOD HIMSELF ... THE VERY ESSENCE OF LIFE.

CHRIS'S FACEBOOK LEADUP SAID –

What was 'The Light' that **shone** from **Jesus** and that now **shines from us** as believers?

It is more than a mystical glow!

IT IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF GOD'S LIFE MANIFESTING IN THIS DARK WORLD.

And - **SLIDE** 'His Life is The **Light** of Men & Women' (John 1:4)

Jesus brought Life to all in the world.

During His Life ... He spoke the Words of Eternal Life ... and brought **Light** to mankind ...

He said,

John 6:63 KJV

... The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Those who come to Him and believe on Him ... receive Eternal Life.

John 5:24 NIV

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

**AND NOW WE ARE THE LIGHT BEARERS
WE ARE THE ONES SHINING THE LIGHT OF LIFE.**

Jesus has gone back to Heaven ...

But the **Light** of Life continues to **shine** through you and me ...

YOU HAVE GOD'S OWN LIFE AND LIGHT SHINING OUT IN YOU
JESUS LIVES IN YOU.

AND HE IS THE ONE DOING THE WORKS IN US –

Ephesians 2:10 BSB

*For **we are God's workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.*

He says to us –

Matthew 5:14&16 ESV **SLIDE**

*You are the **light** of the world.*

¹⁶... *Let your **light shine** before others, **so that they may see your good works** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

NOW WE DO WHAT JESUS WAS DOING WHEN HE WAS HERE –
AND WE ARE THE ONES **SHINING THE LIGHT** TO THE WORLD.

HIS **LIFE** BROUGHT **LIGHT** TO MEN ...

SLIDE NOW **OUR LIVES** BRING **LIGHT** TO DESPERATE PEOPLE,
TRAPPED IN DARKNESS.

HOW DO WE SHINE THIS **LIGHT**?

LET'S LOOK AT THE WAYS WE CAN SHINE OUR **LIGHT**

- *FROM REST*

Matthew 5:14&16 ESV **SLIDE**

*You are the **light** of the world.*

¹⁶... ***LET** your **light shine** before others ...*

*I used to go out door-knocking ... handing out leaflets ... preaching on street corners ... all these things we were told one **SHOULD DO** ... so people would come to Jesus.*

But after some time of doing this, I questioned whether God was in it, because I saw no results.

IT'S NOT OUR EFFORTS THAT SHINE THE LIGHT

JESUS IS LIVING IN US ... and **HIS LIFE** shines out of us ... simply and naturally ... out of Rest.

We don't have to work and struggle at it.

HE IS DOING THE WORK THROUGH US ...

As We **"Let"** Him –

Did you notice the little word **“Let”** - ‘Let your light shine before others’

As we **“Let”** Him work ... He Works His Work in us.

Shining the Light into needy hearts ... bringing **Hope** to lost mankind ...

We are His workmanship ... we can Rest In Faith He will do it in us.

Just stay close to Him and **“LET” HIS LIFE** FLOW THROUGH YOU, NATURALLY & EASILY.

HOW DO WE SHINE THE **LIGHT**?

- **IN COMPASSION**

*At our Grace Connect Thursday group the other week, someone wanted to know HOW DO WE **SHINE OUR LIGHTS**.*

I was very interested in what Chris said.

When we have the opportunity to share with people, when they are going through difficult times and we can see that coming-to-Jesus is what they need –

Sympathising with them doesn't help ... because sympathy doesn't give people Hope. It just leaves them where they are. And Empathising with people is fine ... but it gives no answers.

God has placed His heart inside us ... His Heart of Compassion ...

As we Rest in Jesus and look to Him, our Attitude in listening to people will be Compassion ...

And Compassion puts us in a place of being in tune with God's Heart ... so we can hear what He's wanting to say in this situation.

As we Rest in His Compassion and keep our eyes on Jesus, HE will Work His work through us simply and easily ... as we lean on Him and Love those around us with His Love and as we wait on Him for the words to say –

SLIDE *God will lead us to speak words of Testimony, and Truth of what Jesus can do for them ...*

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

*... In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. [And] **always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with gentleness and respect.*

HOW DO WE SHINE THE **LIGHT**?

- **BY PREACHING / SHARING THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:14&16 ESV **SLIDE**

*You are the **light** of the world.*

¹⁶ *... **Let your light shine before others** ...*

That they may know the joy and blessing that we know...

The peace and satisfaction of God who loves them.

All these things He has done for us.

Share them with someone ... that they too may know and come ...

Romans 10:14 NLT

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

It's all very well to say, 'Our lives are our witness,'
and they can be ... and they are ...

But Jesus came speaking the Words God gave Him to share with mankind. And He will give us the Words, too, as we look to Him.

Jesus sends us out into the world ... as the **Light** of the world ... to do the same as He did ... to speak His Words.

In His Prayer to the Father, He said –

John 17:18 BSB

As You sent Me into the world, I have also sent them into the world.

Jesus sends us out ... as HIS REPRESENTITIVES ...

Have you thought of that?

You are THE REPRESENTATIVE OF JESUS, here in this world today.

Jesus can't be here anymore ... **BUT YOU ARE** ...

What a fantastic privilege to work with the God of the Universe to bring people to Him ... to be His honoured representatives ... bearing His name and His glory.

And what a joy it is to do that - to speak to people about Jesus, as we stay close to Him and listen as He leads us ...

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

Tell people what He's done for you ...

There's nothing as powerful as a true story of someone's life ...

As we've already said –

THE SAME SPIRIT THAT WAS IN JESUS IS IN YOU ... TO LEAD YOU AND GUIDE YOU ... AND SPEAK THROUGH YOU

HOW DO WE SHINE THE LIGHT?

- **BY DISPLAYING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

The Fruit of the Spirit ... is JESUS' LIFE and Character ... that He placed in us when we believed.

The Fruit Of The Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, kindness, self-control.
(Galatians 5:22-23)

As we allow Jesus to live in us ... as we Grow in Grace and in knowledge and in closeness to Him ... we find ourselves *Exhibiting patience where once we would have lost our cool ... feeling peace when there's turmoil all around us ... joy in sorrow ... etc*

Because of the Fruit of the Spirit inside us ... we as believers have a different attitude to people around us – because of the Hope that is in us ... and that we know we are loved ...

Helen was telling us at Grace Connect the other Thursday, that she notices people looking at her when she doesn't get upset in difficult circumstances.

As people see the Fruit of the Spirit growing in our lives ... they see Jesus.

Acts 4:13 NIV

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

HOW DO WE SHINE THE LIGHT?

- **BY DOING GOOD WORKS**

Ephesians 2:10 BSB **SLIDE**

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance **as our way of life**.*

God has prepared Good Works for us to do ...

Works that He works through us ... because of Jesus' Life in us ...

God has called each of us to different 'GOOD WORKS' for Him.

Some of us make morning teas ... some of us contribute to the music ... some of us have a ministry of visitation ...

There are so many different ministries that we can do for Jesus.

Chris jokes with John that he has a 'finger' ministry – because he touches the mobile phone to start our live-streaming each Sunday.

Whatever you are called to ... these things are the GOOD WORKS that shine our light to those around us ...

JESUS IS THE ONE DOING THE WORKS IN YOU
THEY ARE HIS WORKS

2 Corinthians 4:6 NKJV **SLIDE**

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness (at Creation) who has shone in our hearts to the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God has shone His **warmth** and Light and Life into our hearts

- So that we would Know Him
- And so that we would Show the Light of the Glory of Jesus, the Saviour, who said, 'If I be lifted up ... [I] will draw all men unto me.' (John 12:32)

As I have gone on the journey of studying into this topic ...

It has become my heart's desire to LIVE the LIGHT ... THAT OTHERS, TOO, MAY LIVE.