

'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'

(The Life of Christ Series)

The Gospel of Luke

'This Little Light Inside'

Remember that children's church song – *'This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine'*? It had other verses like: *'hide it under a basket? NO! I'm gonna let it shine'*, *'don't let Satan blow it out; I'm gonna let it shine'* and so forth. The message being conveyed was that 'I am a Christian and not ashamed of it so I will publicly and proudly let people know I'm a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.' However, the ability to translate the song into life depends on whether there is first of all a spiritual light on inside that can brighten the *inner man* and then be able to naturally radiate the life of Christ out to a world in the dark about Jesus Christ.

Some professing Christians say they have seen *the Light* and received Christ by faith, but their worldly lifestyle, foul mouth, disinterest in spiritual things, and aloofness from a good church is probably evidence that the absence of righteousness on the outside is because of the lack of the Lord inside. No light emits, because the *Light* isn't on inside. Light can't be hidden if it is there – it will always find a way to shine one way or another.

Sometimes people say of a person who lacks common sense; *"the lights are on, but nobody's home."* That's the way it is when God shines the truth of the gospel upon somebody who chooses to remain in the dark, refusing to open the door of their heart and life to the Savior (**Revelation 3:20-21**).

But when someone *sees the light* and turns to Christ for salvation, Jesus comes with spiritual light and life that transforms both the inner and outer life. He fixes and reenergizes by the Holy Spirit that *little light inside* called *conscience* and regenerates the previously *darkened mind* to hear and know and obey God (**Ephesians 4:17-20**). It doesn't take long for that *little light inside* to need expression *outside* through godly living, Spirit-filled worship and personal evangelism (**Ephesians 5:8-14**).

In these last days before Jesus returns God needs all disciples of Christ to *lighten up!* As this world gets darker both spiritually and morally, disciples of Jesus need to have personal devotions that lighten their soul daily and a life that is a bold witness publicly (**Revelation 22:11-12**). As Jesus commanded, **'Let your light shine!'** (*inwardly and outwardly*). He, the **Bright and Morning Star** is coming soon (**Rev. 22:12-16**).

'Lighten Up!'

(Jesus' 'Light Work' = Biblical Discipleship)

Luke 11:33-41

When Jesus began His public ministry, He told anyone wanting to follow Him the terms of being a disciple: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand 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 6:14-16**).

Later Christ reiterated this core responsibility of true Christians in **Luke 8:16-17**: *"... (a lamp is to set on a lampstand) that those who enter may see the light..."* He repeatedly emphasized the necessity of all disciples to live as *light bearers* in this spiritually and morally dark world, a theme that carries throughout the whole New Testament (**Ephesians 5:8-14, Philippians 2:15-16, 1 John 1:5-7**). Since Jesus is the light of the world (**John 8:12**) and He dwells within us disciples by His Spirit, it is a reasonable expectation of God that spiritual and moral light (holy living) should shine within us and radiate out from us dispelling all darkness in both places (**2 Peter 1:19**). But as the Lord explained to His disciples, light must continually be fueled or it will dim, flicker or even be extinguished by the darkness of this world trying to *'turn off that light!'* (**John 3:19-21**)...

The Parable of The Lamp

(Shining light or dark room? What are you letting into your soul?)

“No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, that those who come in may see the light. The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light.” 11:33-36

‘lamp’
God’s Word

‘light’
obeying biblical truth

‘body’
the residence of your life

‘bad’
all ungodliness

‘darkness’
disobedience

***Whatever you take into your soul (good or bad) dictates who you really are and all you do. A true disciple of Christ is careful to not allow ‘dark’ into his or her mind or heart (1 Peter 1:13-16). Then one’s outward lifestyle will naturally shine forth Christ in all they say and do.**

The Dinner in The Dark

(Jesus, The ‘Light of the world’ enlightens a clergyman in the dark)

“And as (Jesus) spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat. When the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner. Then the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He Who made the outside make the inside also. But rather give alms of such things as you have then indeed all things are clean to you.” 11:37-41

‘washing before dinner’
ritual, ceremonial tradition (hygiene not the issue)

‘make the outside clean’ & ‘leave inward dirty’
hypocrisy of superficial religion

‘give alms (outer good works) from an inner, pure heart’
live clean inside & out

***Christ insists that disciples be totally cleansed vessels fit for His use (2 Timothy 2:21); inner purity and holiness that flows out in godliness, good works and ministry. No outwardly clean life with dirty thoughts and feelings, nor dirty outer lives claiming to be pure inwardly – both are hypocritical and probably true of a ‘false believer’.**