

Sermon Notes

REFLECTIONS

Let Your Light Shine!



6-20-2010



Reflections

The little ship was steaming toward the harbor, or so the captain thought, until he saw the lighthouse where it shouldn't have been. He quickly realized that he was off the course he should be on and if he continued forward without a change in course he would soon crash upon the rocks. Just in time, he changed his heading and brought the ship safely into harbor. He had been saved, as had many others, by the faithful light of the lighthouse on the shore. It was maintained continuously as a safeguard to incoming vessels to direct them toward the entrance to the harbor and many a mariner's ship was kept off the rocks by the presence of the lighthouse.

There was a time when satellites, GPS units, depth finders, and radios were not present and the lighthouses were lit by lanterns, but nevertheless still provided the safety of a warning light to keep vessels off the rocks. Even those small lights were made powerful by the lenses that amplified their effect and they focused that light into a strong beam that could cut through even stubborn fogs which settled over the sea. So here we have a small flame magnified into a powerful beacon designed to cast a beam of light into the darkness of the sea, what a tremendous object lesson for us as Christians who are called to be the light of the world. **"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.** (Matthew 5:14-16 NKJ) Our small lights, when empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be a means of rescue to those who might see Jesus in us and be drawn to Him by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God can focus our light to take it from puny to powerful as we allow His presence to bear the righteous fruit of a disciple of Christ in our lives.

A humorous story is told of a radio conversation between a ship's captain and a lighthouse attendant where the captain mistook the lighthouse for an approaching ship. He radioed for the "ship" to change course because he was piloting a large ship. The lighthouse keeper radioed back that the captain must change course. In an indignant voice the captain retorted that he was steering his large ship forward and the light must change course. Finally the keeper said, "You may have a large ship, but I am a lighthouse on a large rock and you must change course

or be wrecked. Of course the embarrassed captain changed course without further argument.

It is a story that illustrates the plight of men. They claim great power and declare that they have no need of the light of the Gospel of Jesus and, in fact, they claim that the Light doesn't exist. God, of course, has already dealt with such attitudes when He explains through the Apostle... ***For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,...*** (Romans 1:20-25 NKJ) He continues to declare that when men reach this state of disbelief, God gives them over to a reprobate mind as they choose to worship the creation rather than the creator. There will come a day, however, when men will bow before Him who created them and there they will acknowledge Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords as they face the judgment awaiting them. ***For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."*** ¹² ***So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*** (Romans 14:11-12 NKJ)

For us today, as His disciples, we must face not only our own need for His salvation, but we must also deal with His command to go into the world and make disciples. ***All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*** Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20 NKJ) Not only are we to obey His Word, we are to share Him with the world. We are to let our light shine so that others may see Jesus in us as we walk in His Spirit and the result will be to God's glory as many may come to salvation because we were faithful in our mission.

How then do we know if our light is shining brightly? Let's examine ourselves carefully. Is being pleasing to Jesus at the core of your life? Do you evaluate your walk by the Word of God or by comparison with those around you? Are you sharing your faith in Christ with others? Have you led anyone to Jesus recently? If your life was reviewed by others would the fruits of the Spirit be the defining features? Are you faithful in serving others in His name? All tough questions to be sure, but important ones to be considered when we look at ourselves in the Light of Jesus. How's your lighthouse working? **Pastor Doug**