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The Light That Remains



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Matthew 5:13 18

5:13 "You are the salt 13 of the earth. But if salt loses its flavor, 14 how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people.

5:14 You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden.

5:15 People 15 do not light a lamp and put it under a basket 16 but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.



Leviticus 2:11 13

2:11 "No grain offering which you present to the Lord can be made with yeast, ²¹ for you must not offer up in smoke any yeast or honey as a gift to the Lord.

2:12 You can present them to the Lord as an offering of first fruit, ²³ but they must not go up to the altar for a soothing aroma.

2:13 Moreover, you must season every one of your grain offerings with salt; you must not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be missing from your grain offering on every one of your grain offerings you must present salt.

The Light That Remains

"He himself was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." (John 1:8-9)

1:8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. 1:9 The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. As children a common song sung in Sunday School simply stated "This little light of mine; I'm going to let it shine....Hide it under a bushel. NO! I'm going to let it shine."

It went on to say "Don't let Satan blow it out. NO! I'm going to let it shine."

As young children the light of God shines so easily through them. Children are not ashamed to boast about who they serve.

They will boldly declare what

they know about God. As children grow however that little light that once shone so brightly at times is threatened.

In the Old Testament we read countless accounts of the Israelites allowing their light to be blown out so to speak. In Deuteronomy, God gave the Israelites clear instructions. He instructed them not to desire the things of those who surround them.

He warned them not to intermarry, not to worship their gods, essentially not to be influenced by them. Unfortunately the Israelites did not listen.

Salt And Light

Time and time again we read in the book of Judges as well as the books of Kings and Chronicles how the "Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord." Rather than following after the way of God; the Israelites worshipped the gods that surrounded them, intermarried with the people who did not serve God, and followed after the customs of those around them. In the New

Testament the Bible tells us not to be conformed to the things of this world (Romans 12:2). In other words the Bible is instructing us not to follow after the patterns, customs and affairs of the world. In fact the Bible goes on to tell us that we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Rather than allowing the world to influence us, God desires us as Christians to influence the world.

The Light That Remains

Satan, Roaring Lion, Devourer

When we read the story of the Israelites we see how destructive their behavior was. They desired the things of those that surrounded them so much that they demanded a king to rule over them. Denying that God was their ultimate ruler, the people wanted an earthly king like the nations around them. In addition rather than following the commandments that God gave them, they began to follow the customs and commands of the neighboring people. What their neighbors did they began to do as well. It makes one think why this was. The Bible instructs us that Satan goes around like a roaring lion seeking those who he can devour. It also lets us know that Satan is deceitful. In the Old Testament, the New Testament and throughout history we can see how this is the case. Satan will deceive believers into thinking that the way of those who surround them is better than their own. He will convince individuals to look not at the Bible for their influence but to look at the world and all their dictates.

The Right Path

While deceiving individuals, Satan does not give the full picture. He paints a rosy picture of a wonderful life for those who follow after the customs of the world; but he does not give the end result. The Bible tells us that there are two roads to take; a wide road and a narrow road. The wide road is the road that Satan would desire individuals to take; however the Bible lets us know that this road leads to destruction. We can see that this is what happened to the Israelites.

Time and time again they choose to go on the path of their neighbors and God in his loving-kindness warned them and encouraged them to turn once again to the right path. His arms were open wide waiting to embrace the Israelites if would just choose to follow him. Unfortunately, they continued on the path of their neighbors and destruction did await them.



Leviticus 3:1 5

"...3:1 "Now if his offering is a peace offering sacrifice,¹ if he presents an offering from the herd, he must present before the Lord a flawless male or a female.

² 3:2 He must lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the Meeting Tent, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, must splash the blood against the altar's sides.

3:3 Then the one presenting the offering⁴ must present a gift to the Lord from the peace offering sacrifice: He must remove the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that surrounds the entrails,

3:4 the two kidneys with the fat on their sinews, and the protruding lobe on the liver (which he is to remove along with the kidneys).

3:5 Then the sons of Aaron must offer it up in smoke on the altar atop the burnt offering that is on the wood in the fire as a gift of a soothing aroma to the Lord.



The Light That Remains

Light Shining Through The Darkness

Despite the many who chose to head down the wrong road; there was always a minority who remained steadfast in following after God. Daniel; Isaiah; Ezekiel are a few examples. They allowed their light to shine during a dark time. This is how, we as Christians should live as well. Rather than looking after the things of the world; rather than even looking after compromise that goes on in the church; Christians needs to devote themselves to being the light in this dying world.

Darkness is the absence of light; so one light can make a world of difference. One person who chooses not to compromise; not to conform; not to accept the ungodliness that surround them can impact and inspire others to do the same. Even if it appears that many are going down the wide road one person who chooses to make the narrow path their own, can influence and impact others to make a u-turn.

Choosing The Right Path

The Bible tells us about Josiah, the king of Israel. Those before him choose to do evil in the sight of the Lord, yet once Josiah knew the right way to live; Josiah made it a point to do right in the sight of the Lord. It is up to us as Christians to do the same. Rather than being influenced by the world; we as Christians need to influence the world. Some may say that it is too hard; that those in the world are so opposed to the things of God. Yet the Bible tells us different. It tells us to be a light of the world. Therefore, if we choose to take the narrow path; if we choose to let our light shine; if we choose to stand out and stand against the crowd we will allow God to shine and we will see many come to know Him.

Let us remember the song of our childhood days and let us allow our light to shine.



Luke 14:34 35

14:34 "Salt 106 is good, but if salt loses its flavor, 107 how can its flavor be restored?"

14:35 It is of no value for the soil or for the manure pile; it is to be thrown out. The one who has ears to hear had better listen!"



Luke 8:16 18

8:16 "No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand so that those who come in can see the light.

8:17 For nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be made known and brought to light.

8:18 So listen carefully, for whoever has will be given more, but whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him."