

Refuge City Church — December 4, 2022
The Light of the World
“The Light Inside”, Part 1 [Luke 11:33-36]

Introduction

- Purpose of the Series
 - In early 2017, the Holy Spirit took me on a journey through scripture.
 - I wasn't quite prepared for what he would show me, or teach me.
 - At the time, I was not pastoring from the pulpit, so didn't have an outlet to share this in it's entirety.
- **Did you know?** God's Word opens and closes with references to 'light'.
 - **Genesis 1:3-4**, “And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.”
 - Not only did He separate light from darkness in an astronomical sense, but would ultimately be His plan of redemption for humanity.
 - Light and darkness. Righteousness from sin.
 - **Revelation 22:13**, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
 - What He did in the very beginning, He would do in the end.
 - **Revelation 22:16**, “...I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”
 - What is the clearest visual sign the darkness of night is coming to an end?
- Throughout scripture, God reveals Himself to us as Creator of light, manifests Himself as light and fire, sends His Son Jesus who identifies as the Light of the World and gives us the Holy Spirit who enlightens us to the truth of God's Word, which is a lamp unto our feet!
 - In all this we get to participate!
 - **QUOTE:** “I preach darkness. I don't inspire hope—only shadows. It's up to you to find the light in my words.” [Charles Lee, General during the Revolutionary War]
 - At one time, we walked and lived in the darkness of sin. At one time or another, the light of God was revealed to us. We chose to see, accept, and live in the light.
 - And now we get to *be* light in this world, so that others, if they choose, may see the light of God's love through us and His revealed Word.
- **For Today: Luke 11:33-36**
 - “This Little Light of Mine”: It's a cute rendition to explain that we are to let our light shine for Jesus.
 - **READ:** Excerpt from “The Spiritual Flame” by Richard Rolle [1290-1349]
 - **QUESTION:** It's not so much, ‘How do you let your light shine?’ But rather, ‘Are you in a position to let your light shine?’

“The Light Inside” [Luke 11:33-36]

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

- Something needs to happen prior to living with the fire of God’s love in us [Rolle], or letting our light shine. *There needs to be light within.*
- **Verse 35:** “Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.” [NLT: “Make sure that the light you *think* you have is not actually darkness.”]
 - How can the light that is in us be considered dark? Does not light drive out darkness? Aren’t they opposites?

The eye is the lamp of the body. [vs. 34]

- **Special note:** It does not say *for* the body.
 - This is a special distinction for this passage as it promotes that what you set your eyes on is what fills you.
- Scripture is very clear on allowing Jesus to be our light.
 - **Matthew 5:16**, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
 - Before we get to that stage of faith, *it is essential* we fill ourselves with the right light.
 - **John 8:12**, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- Scripture makes it very clear as to what to avoid setting our eyes on.
 - **1 John 2:15-16**, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”
 - Anything you want *to do, to have, or to be* apart from God’s will is sin.
 - God gives us a very clear answer: Flee & Pursue
 - **1 Timothy 6:11**, “But as for you, O man of God, *flee* these things.”
 - **2 Timothy 2:22**, “So *flee* youthful passions and *pursue* righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”
 - You can’t flee and not replace. You have to pursue righteousness and fill your soul with the things of God! [Running from = fear. Running towards = hope/goal]
 - **CONTEXT:** If we take 1 John 2:15-16 and add the previous verses, things become very clear.
 - **1 John 2:9-11**, “Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”
 - We must have the light of Jesus inside us, *so that* we can show others His light, and therefore provide them a beacon of hope; a reason to stop running from, and start running towards Jesus.

Contrast between light and darkness.

- We are meant to walk in the light.
 - **Ephesians 5:8**, “For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”
 - However, we have an extraordinary tendency to walk in darkness.
- We are supposed to let our light shine... [**Matthew 5:16**, “In the same way, let your light shine before others...”]... but we tend not to as often as we should.
 - Yet, not seeking God, we commit to gaze upon the darkness.
 - Because that’s who we *were*, we’re commanded to keep ourselves from falling back into our old ways
 - **Psalm 1:1**, “How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!”
 - **Proverbs 13:20**, “...the companion of fools will suffer harm.”
 - **1 Corinthians 15:33**, “Bad company ruins good morals.”
- So because we tend to walk in & gaze upon darkness, we *must* purge this darkness from inside.
- **This is key:** We can’t and won’t do that in our own free will. Our sinful nature keeps us from expelling what it desires.
 - **Romans 7:18, 24**, “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”
 - To stop dwelling in darkness, you need to open the door and let the Light in, and therefore become fixated on the light. [*deer in headlights; moth to a flame*]
 - **Revelation 3:20**, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”
- **Key point:** There are varying degrees of light, and we need to choose wisely.
 - *Spiritual Flashlight:* Some believe that as long as they carry their spiritual flashlight, they’re good to go. It’s used only when needed.
 - “I’ll shine my light here, and maybe a little over there. I just need to be sure I don’t stumble over something I don’t see.”
 - The problem with this is that you are still walking in darkness. A flashlight doesn’t expel the darkness all around you. Only what you decide to point it at.
 - *Power-saving LED:* Others decide that they will turn the light on and leave it on for as long as is necessary. This is good.
 - We need more Christians who are willing to flip the switch and leave the light on, just like Motel 6. There’s consistency in this light. It shines brightly and no doubt will expel the darkness in the room.
 - One problem: It can be turned off just as easily as its turned on.
 - *Lighthouse:* Have you ever seen a lighthouse working hard? Its light is powerful, attractive, and protective. It shines 360 degrees in every direction. Its light is a beacon of salvation, hope, and safety.

- The light that shines from a lighthouse can be seen from miles away. It allows for others to avoid the calamities that are before it. It stands strong against the storm, wind, and waves.
- As long as the Light keeper inside is there, he is the one keeping the light on.
- All this can be said about FIRE as well [lighter, fireplace, forest fire]
 - Serves 2 purposes: light and heat.
 - You start with a spark. The spark turns in to a flame that becomes the light and heat you need.
 - *Envision a match*: The spark ignites the fire, and then if not used for a greater purpose, will eventually consume itself and burn out.

Conclusion

- What do we do with what God has given to us today?
 - **Verse 33**: “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.”
 - There is purpose to our life in Jesus! We have a responsibility. Stop shading what God has given you to let out!
 - **Verse 34**: “Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.”
 - We have to be extremely careful what we set our eyes on and dwell on.
 - What we fixate on is what fills us. Good or Bad. The choice is yours.
 - **Verse 35**: “Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.”
 - The enemy is a master of deceit! Be awake and alert to what you take in. Don't be deceived into a false sense of security [bug zapper]
 - **Verse 36**: “If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”
 - This is the result of trusting in the Lighthouse Keeper. Let His light fill, transform, protect, and empower you.
 - The only result is that when you open your eyes, you see the light. When you open your ears, you listen for truth. When you open your mouth, you reveal His wisdom.
 - Then, and only then, can the following be done with sincerity in righteousness!
 - **Matthew 5:14-16**, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”