

Be a Lighthouse!

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Introduction:

Last week I gave a message entitled "The Called Out Ones", which tied in with the messages to the churches in Revelation that we have been studying... [The message video and sermon notes are now posted on www.ucg-mt.org.]

And I believe we know we are called to become part of God's family, receiving the gift of eternal life at Christ's return, and then help Christ teach all of mankind God's way during the thousand year reign of Christ as He establishes the Kingdom of God on earth.

Revelation 5:10 NKJV - And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5:10 NASB20 - You have made them [into] a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth."

1 Corinthians 15:22 NASB20 - For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:23 NASB20 - But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

1 Corinthians 15:42 NKJV - So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. [The body] is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

1 Corinthians 15:43 NKJV - It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

1 Corinthians 15:44 NKJV - It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV - For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

1 Corinthians 15:54 NKJV - So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

So we see we will have eternal, immortal life! We will have spirit bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:57 NKJV - But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always **abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

But what is the "work" that God wants you and I to be doing?

You might say:

"I'm just a housewife."

"I'm retired."

"I'm too old" or "I'm too young."

"I don't know the bible well enough."

"I live in a remote place."

"I've already got another job."

"I've got too many problems or too many sins or made too many mistakes."

But guess what? THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

Last night in the Friday night letter, I asked *"Have you ever pondered the difference between a light and a watchman?"*

Well after thinking about it more, I feel that God wants us all to be lights - like a lighthouse!

Specific Purpose of this Message:

Today I want to show you how part of the work God wants all of us to be is being a lighthouse. That we are to be the LIGHT of this world, showing the world God's way.

You are probably saying or thinking "WHAT???"

But through Jesus God tells us we are to be lights!

Matthew 5:14 NKJV - "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

He wants us to be elevated so the world can see us - like a lighthouse. It's a tower with the light on the top so people can see it from further away...

Matthew 5:15 NKJV - "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.

Again he is saying the light is supposed to be elevated. NOT hidden.

The world we are living in is the house!

God wants the world to see the example of someone who is living God's way.

He wants the world to see the example of someone who knows God's way works and is experiencing the blessings that come with it.

God wants the world to see the example of how He takes care of someone who looks to Him and trusts in Him and commits their lives to Him

*Matthew 5:16 NKJV - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good **works** and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Works = G2041 = ἔργον **érgon**, er'-gon; from a primary (but obsolete) ἔργω **érgō** (to work); toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication, an act:—deed, doing, labour, work. The KJV translates Strong's G2041 in the following manner: **work** (152x), **deed** (22x), **doing** (1x), **labour** (1x).

This is the same word used in I Corinthians 15:

*1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always **abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

What is the work of a lighthouse?

Lighthouses and [beacons](#) are towers with bright lights and fog horns located at important or dangerous locations. They can be found on rocky cliffs or sandy shoals on land, on wave-swept reefs in the sea, and at entrances to harbors and bays. They serve to warn mariners of dangerous shallows and perilous rocky coasts, and they help guide vessels safely into and out of harbors. The messages of these long-trusted aids to navigation are simple: either STAY AWAY, DANGER, BEWARE! or COME THIS WAY!

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/> (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

So we see how we are to be lighthouses in many ways:

1. Just before Jesus introduces being a light, he says we are also to be like salt:

*Matthew 5:13 NKJV - "**You are the salt of the earth**; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

The key point here is that you don't want a big clump of salt - that is too much. You want it scattered around. And certainly that is how we are in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. We are scattered around. We may feel we are remote from one another, but we are to be a light wherever we are!

They can be found on rocky cliffs or sandy shoals on land, on wave-swept reefs in the sea, and at entrances to harbors and bays.

2. We have our trials and tests - just like a light house is often pounded by waves and surf

Matthew 7:24 NKJV - "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

Matthew 7:25 NKJV - "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:26 NKJV - "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

Matthew 7:27 NKJV - "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV - There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].

People see how we endure trials and tests. And they often know the trials and tests we've been through before we come into the Church of God. We are a witness of what the power of God can do to change a person.

3. Even a lighthouse at times make a noise via a fog horn to warn ships of harm:

"They serve to warn mariners of dangerous shallows and perilous rocky coasts, and they help guide vessels safely into and out of harbors. The messages of these long-trusted aids to navigation are simple: either STAY AWAY, DANGER, BEWARE! or COME THIS WAY!"

Therefore at times we will be asked our opinions on what is going on in the world, and we will have opportunity to give a response that warns of the consequences of sin. So in addition to being a lighthouse, we are also a watchman:

Ezekiel 33:1 NKJV - Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Ezekiel 33:2 NKJV - "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman,

Ezekiel 33:3 NKJV - 'when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people,

Ezekiel 33:4 NKJV - 'then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his [own] head.

Ezekiel 33:5 NKJV - 'He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.

Ezekiel 33:6 NKJV - 'But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes [any] person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'

Ezekiel 33:7 NKJV - "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

Ezekiel 33:8 NKJV - "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked [man], you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Ezekiel 33:9 NKJV - "Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Ezekiel 33:10 NKJV - "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions and our sins [lie] upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?" ' "

Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV - "Say to them: '[As] I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

4. Other examples of our works:

*John 3:19 KJV - And this is the condemnation, that **light is come into the world**, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds[G2041] were evil.*

John 3:20 KJV - For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds[G2041] should be reproved.

*John 3:21 KJV - But **he that doeth truth cometh to the light**, that his deeds[G2041] may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

We represent Christ:

John 5:35 KJV - He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

John 5:36 KJV - But I have greater witness than [that] of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

We are being a light by believing in God who sent Christ:

John 6:28 NKJV - Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

John 6:29 NKJV - Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Some additional verses:

John 12:36 NKJV - "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

Romans 2:17 NKJV - Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God,

Romans 2:18 NKJV - and know [His] will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law,

Romans 2:19 NKJV - and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

Romans 2:20 NKJV - an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

Ephesians 5:8 NKJV - For you were once darkness, but now [you are] light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Ephesians 5:9 NKJV - (for the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

Ephesians 5:10 NKJV - finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:11 NKJV - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose [them].

Ephesians 5:12 NKJV - For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Ephesians 5:13 NKJV - But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Ephesians 5:14 NKJV - Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

Christ has called us to be lights!

Conclusion:

Philippians 2:14 NKJV - Do all things without complaining and disputing,

*Philippians 2:15 NKJV - that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, **among whom you shine as lights in the world,***

Philippians 2:16 NKJV - holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Be the example that shows all around you that God's way works.

Let the life of Jesus Christ shine through you!

Brethren, be a lighthouse in this dark world!