

Melva's Corner



THE LIGHT WITHIN

Tapping the Source of Power

Central Truth: Being light for the world demands that we choose to stand out.

What does your life say to the people at your job, your school, in your neighborhood, house, church about who your Lord is and what your priorities are?

Our allegiance to Jesus should be every bit as obvious to those around us as a city built on a hilltop. We are light for the world. His glory radiates out of us in well-chosen words and redemptive, grace-filled actions and God receives glory when that light falls on lives languishing in twilight and shadow. May it never be, Jesus cautions us, that we obscure that light for any reason. We exist to give light to everyone in His house.

It's not easy. It takes great care and forethought. **It requires us to give up careless words and foolish actions.** It means that we will be honest in facing up to — and merciless in dealing with — the sins in our lives that cast shadows where there should be illumination. Being light for the world demands that we choose to stand out. We must decide to make clear to the world by what we say and do - who we belong to and who we are. And it requires that we do this in a way that truly reflects our Lord. We must not be characterized by hostility, impatience, self-righteousness, or pugnacity. We are charged with lighting the darkness with the glory of Jesus, not with the fire of judgment.

There's no doubt that choosing to stand out might sometimes mean choosing to become a target. It will sometimes be difficult and cause us trouble. To be explicit about our trust in Jesus and His mastery over our lives means that some people

will give glory to God when they see our lives. It also means that some will hate us, mock us and insult us.

Self-centered lives are cramped, provincial, and sad. It is only those souls large enough to live for others that are expansive with joy and bright with love. Love is, in fact, the only spiritual power great enough to overcome the selfishness that seems to be instinctive to being alive.

When we walk with Christ, His love is reflected in us and then we shine and sparkle so brightly that others see us and want what we have — God's love, mercy, and grace revealed in the Gospels.

Jesus bought us with His life. He set us free by taking our burdens upon His shoulders. Is it too much to ask that we be conspicuous? Is it too much to ask that we let our lights shine?

Scriptural References:

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory."

(Colossians 3:1-4)