

CALVARY BIBLE COLLEGE: SHILLONG

Paper Presentation

Topic: “WITNESSING OURSELVES AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD TO ENLIGHTEN THE MISSIONS FIELD”

OUTLINE:

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INTRODUCTION

The Lord had appealed to all the Christians saying that “ye are the light of the world...” in (Matthew 5:14) and then He said again that “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” in (Matt 5:16)

Jesus was speaking to a crowd of just ordinary folks on the mount during His earthly ministry. By saying that, “Ye are the light of the world.” And today, we are the light of the world. That’s how God intends to get his work done on earth today: through us. It’s not just Pastors and missionaries who are the light; it’s everybody who loves the Lord.

Jesus describes what we are in this passage the light of the world, not the light of the church. That means we have to get beyond the church walls and take the light out to where it is dark. Example:- Mission field.

We were saved to shine. Don’t hide your testimony or be ashamed to take your Bible wherever you go especially to mission fields as the witness of light to the world. Don’t be afraid to pray before others. Let others know that you love the Lord Jesus. Jesus also talked of the strength of collective light. Each house in a city with its lights on cast a glow across the sky. As

Christians come together, there is a glow for the Lord that we cannot create individually. We shine brightest when we shine together.

How can we shine for God? Jesus says that we are to let our lights shine before men in such a way that they will see our good works and glorify God. That's how we need to do it. We live for God. As it is written "For to me to live is Christ..." in Philippians 1:21.

It is important for the Christians to be witnesses of light which they have received it from Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit as it is written in Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." So we could see in this every scripture how the gospel is expose to the spiritually dark area even own a days we need to carry on that same mission work of Jesus Christ in the mission fields etc.

Do Christians recognize the irony of this statement? It is truly shocking. Why would someone have to bear witness as the light into darkness? If a person were to turn out all the lights in the room at night so that it was pitch black, if someone were to turn on the light, no one would have to testify and tell people that there is the light. If a person turned on the light, would other have to tell that there is the light? All would know that the light is on. All would be able to see the light in that particular area. The author of this gospel is setting up for us the theme of this book through yet another simple statement. Who are people that need to be told about the light? Who are the people who need a witness to give testimony that the light is shining? The answer is blind people. People who cannot see, People who have been in the darkness for so long that they cannot recognize light or comprehend what light is. Remember in John 1:5 we noted the dual nature of John's declaration: "And the darkness did not overcome it" also means "the darkness did not comprehend it." Jesus is the light shining in the darkness (John 1:4). John is the witness telling the blind people who live in the darkness that the light is shining and to go to the light. John has to take people by the hand and show them that Jesus is the light.

This problem was not confined to the days of John the Witness. Let us look to the words of the apostle Paul.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3-6 KJV)

The god of this world, Satan, has blinded the mind of unbelievers, so that no one can see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. All humanities are blind and need someone to give testimony to the light. John was the first witness to the light shining in the darkness in John 5:35, Jesus said "he was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in

his light.” After John, then the apostles were witnesses to the light shining in the darkness. The apostles received the light and gave the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ to the world. They were reflection of the true light so that people can come out of darkness and into His light.¹

This problem has not changed even today. People are still blind and lost in the darkness. They cannot see the light and they need people to point them to the light. The apostle Paul taught that the Jewish nation was to be a people who brought people from the darkness and to the light and were to be a guide to the blind but failed (Romans 2:19).

But our mission as lights in the world is not merely in terms of holy conduct. The apostles Paul and John repeatedly call us children of light that must walk in holiness and purity. But there is a reason that we live this way and it is not just so that we can go to heaven. We are given the task of being lights so that others may see. They are blinded by the darkness of this world and we will reflect the light of Jesus in such a way that they will see our good works and given glory to our Father. We are not just the witnesses. But we are to be torches in the darkness, shining the light of Jesus in this dark world. “Do all things without grumbling or disputing: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” (Philippians 2:14–15 KJV)

You see, the world doesn’t understand. The world looks at Christians and thinks, “They don’t count.” God takes an ordinary person and uses them to share His message to people who needed Him. When we share our faith, we are witnessing His light to other who lives in the darkness so that they could understand that Jesus is the Light of the world in John 8:12.

I. THE WORLD IS IN GREAT SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

1. Impenitent sinners are universally ignorant of the true God. Many of them may have a correct theory in some respects. But after all they know not God. To know God is to have eternal life. And while in their sins, they have no correct apprehension of the true God.
2. They are in great darkness in respect to the spirituality of His law. If they understood the spirituality of His law, they would understand something of His character and of their own. The truth is they have no correct apprehensions of the true spirit and meaning of God’s law.
3. Sinners are ignorant of themselves. They know very little of their own constitution, and in most cases still less of their character. This ignorance of their own character is a natural consequence of their ignorance of the law of God. Being ignorant of the true intent and meaning of the standard with which they are to compare themselves, they are of course utterly mistaken in regard to their true character. Judging of themselves only in the light of the letter, and

¹ _____ *Bright Lights in a Dark World*, (by Love Worth Finding Ministries).

overlooking the breadth of the spirit of the law, they of course form an estimate of their character altogether different from the true one.

4. Sinners are altogether ignorant of their true desert. Being ignorant of the spirituality of the law, they know not either the number or the exceeding demerit of their sins.

5. Sinners know not their own helplessness, nor do they understand the remedy which God has provided for healing their souls. They neither care for, nor know but little about the remedy, because they are ignorant of their disease.

6. Sinners are ignorant of what is really good for them, and what will in the highest manner promote their own well being, both in time and eternity.

7. Consequently they are pursuing exactly the course that must eventually and necessarily result in their everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power.

II. CHRISTIANS, UNDER GOD, ARE WITNESSES TO ENLIGHTEN THE WORLD

1. Because they have the true light. They know God. They understand the spirituality of His law. They know the character of man. They know his guilt, desert, helplessness, and necessities. They have seen their own ignorance, and know that the world is in darkness and lieth in wickedness. They have the most certain knowledge of this, and the best of all knowledge, that of their own experience. They also know the remedy for sinners. They have been enlightened by the true light. True Christians have all been taught of God. They know Jesus Christ, whom to know is life eternal. They are conscious of so knowing him as to have eternal life abiding in them. They can truly say, from their own consciousness, "Where as I was blind, now I see."² They then are the persons, and the only persons in the entire world, that are capable of enlightening the world. It is in vain for unconverted philosophers or statesmen, or any unconverted persons whatever to talk of enlightening the world. The light that is in them is great darkness. And when they talk of enlightening the world, they know not what they say, nor whereof they affirm. They speak at random, and deceive their followers. They are blind leaders of the blind, and they all stumble on together upon the dark mountains, till teachers and disciples fall into the pit of destruction together. One should know and realize that light is declared by the scriptures to have come into existence by the express decree of the Almighty and to have been in the existence long before man or animals or vegetables.³

2. The world must be enlightened through human instrumentality. Constituted as men are, truth must address them through the medium of the senses. Consequently God found it necessary to unite Himself with human nature in order to enlighten men. Taking to Himself human nature, He lived, and conversed, and ate, and drank, and held conversation with men through the medium of His human nature. And this possessed their minds of the true idea of who and what He is. He

² www.gospeltruth.net/1840OE/400812_christians_light.htm

³ Merrill F. Unger, *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, (Singapore: Lion Hudson plc, 1966) p. 776.

exhibited in His own life, and in all His deportment, the spirit of his own law. By his teachings, but more especially by his life, He called the attention of men away from the letter to the spirit of his law, and when He gave them precepts, He gave them illustrations of their meaning in his own example, and thus possessed their minds of the nature of true religion, and what it was to love their neighbor as themselves.

3. None have had the true light but those who have received it through the instrumentality of the saints of God. From the earliest period of man's existence, God has caused the light to shine upon the world through human beings. Sometimes He has had but few representatives on earth. And gross darkness has covered the whole face of the earth, except here and there a little spot has been lighted up, by some pulpit and saint of God. Noah was a light to the old world in its worst estate. Daniel was a light in the idolatrous court of Nebuchadnezzar. Prophets and holy men have been scattered up and down in the earth enough to preserve the true knowledge of God, to a greater or less extent, through these representatives. The Lord Jesus Christ, first in his forerunner John, next in his own person, afterwards in his apostles, and now in all his saints, is enlightening the world.⁴ His people are now the medium through which He discovers Himself to mankind. His Spirit dwells in them "working in them to will and to do of his good pleasure." They are his disciples who teach his doctrines, exhibit his spirit, and thus at once rebuke and enlighten the darkness of the world.

III. HOW CHRISTIANS CAN ENLIGHTEN THE WORLD/MISSION FIELD

Under this head, what constitutes the Christian's light, or what renders him a light to others?

1. It is not simply his creed.
2. Not simply his profession.
3. Nor is it his profession and creed together.
4. Not his self-righteous appearance on the Sunday.
5. Nor his sitting at the communion table.
6. Nor does his light consist in all these together. But,
7. His light consists in his temper and spirit.
8. In his good works in a most strict regard to the universal law of love. As Christ did, so does the Christian. His life is a commentary upon the law of God. He is giving continual illustrations in his own temper and spirit and life, of the spirituality, the true intent and meaning of the law of God.

⁴ www.gospeltruth.net/copy_files.

9. In his practical and firm opposition to all that is unholy or injurious to the souls or bodies of men, and in the manifestation of his undying attachment, to whatever is holy, lovely and of good report.

A. Christians then can't enlighten the world, through the following points

1. Not by conforming to whatever is wrong in their tempers, views or practices not by any direct or indirect connivance at their sins, worldly mindedness, or whatever is the result of their darkness.

2. Not by any compromise of principle or by conciliating their favor, by keeping out of view the points of difference between themselves and sinners. Some professors of religion seem disposed to avoid all controversy with impenitent men, to lessen as far as possible the differences of opinion, and views, and practices between themselves and sinners. They seem to think that the true way to enlighten them, is by falling in with them as far as possible & by conforming in a great measure to their customs, views, business practices, and almost everything else. Now this is as far as possible from the true philosophy of enlightening the world. It is as if you attempted to clear the eye-sight of your neighbor by putting out your own eyes. It is like attempting to pull the mote out of your neighbor's eye, not by plucking the beam out of your own eye, but by filling your own eye both with beams and motes. If you wish to convince a man that he is in the dark, you must hold up your own light, in contrast with his darkness. If he can see your light, it will discover his own darkness.⁵

3. Christians can never enlighten the world by anything that will imply that they lay but little practical stress upon the points of difference between them and sinners. It is in vain to attempt to enlighten the world by any course of conduct that is calculated to make the impression that the real difference between saints and sinners lies merely or mostly in opinion, if after all the practices of Christians are such as demonstrate that their opinions have very little to do with practice.

B. Christians can enlighten through the following points

1. Christians can enlighten the world by holding up the light of their own example on all subjects in strong and constant contrast with the example of the ungodly.

2. They can enlighten the world by a patient and firm perseverance in well doing, in spite of all the opposition of earth and hell. To what a wonderful extent did the Apostles and primitive Christians succeed in enlightening the world. This was a thing of course. Their lives were a perpetual light, dissipating the moral darkness around them. They did not hold forth a flickering, waving, and uncertain light. It was clear, steady, pure, and had well nigh banished darkness from the earth. In the text Christ says, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good

⁵ www.gospeltruth.net/1840OE/400812_christians_light.htm

works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” “So shine.” How? Ans. By exhibiting our good works in contrast with their evil works, and that continually.

3. By exhibiting our self-denial, in contrast with their self-indulgence, and that continually.

4. By exhibiting our heavenly mindedness, in contrast with their worldly mindedness.

5. By showing that our conversation is in heaven, in contrast with their showing that their conversation is of earth.

6. By showing that our treasure is in heaven, in contrast with their showing that their treasure is on earth.

7. By showing our conformity to correct principles, in contrast with their disregard of them.

8. By showing our conformity to the laws of our being, in contrast with their shameless violations of them.

9. By manifesting our faith in Christ, in contrast with their unbelief.

10. By manifesting our sweet submission to all the providential dealings of God, in contrast with their restlessness and rebellion against his providence.

11. By holding up on every subject and in every way, both by precept and example, the light of truth in opposition to their darkness. In these and in similar ways can Christians enlighten the world/mission field.

But by blinding the light, by making any compromise, by frittering away the points of difference, by going one hair's breadth aside from the love of truth, for the sake of conciliating their favor, they will not, and never can enlighten them.

IV. IF THE WORLD/MISSION FIELD IS NOT ENLIGHTENED, IT IS THE FAULT OF CHRISTIANS

1. Because Christians have the means of enlightening the world. They have the gospel and the means of spreading it throughout the world. They have the true light in their own hearts, and have the means of exhibiting it to all mankind.

2. They have abundant opportunities to enlighten the world. God has stationed them in different parts of the world, for the very purpose of enlightening the world. He has commanded them to go, and given them the means of going and holding up their light in every dark corner of the world. When the early Christians clung together in Jerusalem, He scattered them in all countries by the force of a persecution. And they “went everywhere preaching the gospel.” And being thus scattered, they learned the true philosophy of enlightening and converting the world.

3. The world is expecting and looking to Christians to enlighten them. The eyes of ungodly men are turned to the Church, and marking their example, taking knowledge of their lives, spirit, and ways, and wherever among professors, there is a true Christian, his light is seen, as a matter of fact, to rebuke the darkness around him.

4. If the world is not enlightened, it is the fault of Christians, because, if the truth is properly and fully exhibited, it will dispel their darkness. The human mind is so constituted that truth “commends itself to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” There is no mistake about this. The human mind is true to its own laws. And when truth is clearly, strongly, and constantly exhibited, it will and must rebuke the darkness of any human mind.

5. The principal business which Christians have in this world is, to enlighten the world. Christ has gone to heaven. He has left Christians as his representatives, to carry out the revelation of God and shine as lights in the world. If He should take all Christians immediately from the world, it would leave the world in impenetrable and hopeless darkness, notwithstanding all that has been done to enlighten it. These must be illustrations of religious truth. The minds of men are so dark, they are prone to view religious truth so much in the abstract, and as so purely a matter of opinion, that without living illustrations, truth seldom, if ever gains possession of their minds.

6. Christians are in fault, if the world is not enlightened, because they can have any degree of spiritual illumination which they need to carry forward and complete the enlightening of the world. Christ has promised us the Holy Spirit, and has told us that God “is more willing to give it than earthly parents are to give good gifts to their children.” Every needed aid is abundantly guaranteed by the same promise of God to Christians. And in full view of these exceeding great and precious promises Christ has said to them, “Ye are the light of the world.” And now, “let your light so shine before men that they, seeing your good works, [not merely hearing your good doctrines, but seeing your good works,]”⁶ may glorify your father who is in heaven.

7. Nothing can prevent our enlightening the world, but a refusal on our part to perform good works. If we perform good works men will see them. If they see them they will be constrained to glorify our Father which is in heaven. If then men are not enlightened, it is because we do not perform our good works. In other words, it is because we are not genuine Christians. Observe Christ does not say, ye ought to be the light of the world. But “Ye are the light of the world.” As the word of Christ is true, real Christians are the light of the world. And this is a matter of fact. True Christians have the Spirit of Christ, for the possession of this Spirit is what constitutes them Christians. The Spirit of Christ will always manifest itself in performing the works of Christ. If therefore men do not see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven, it is only because we have the form, and not the spirit of Christianity. And “if the light that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness?”⁷

⁶ www.GospelTruth.net

⁷ _____ *Gospel Truth Ministries*, Copyright (c)1999, 2000.

CONCLUSION

Christians should remember that silence on any great subject of moral reform, that hiding their light either in precept or example, when a suitable opportunity occurs for exhibiting it, implies either that they do not believe it, or that it is with them a mere matter of opinion, and that they lay little or no practical stress upon it. Or else it implies that they are ashamed of it.

How cruel it is to let people remain in darkness through a fear of losing our own popularity. On what multitudes of subjects, are people injuring both their bodies and their souls for lack of correct information. And how shameful and cruel it is for those who have the true light, to hide it. We see from this subject, the importance of believers in the doctrine of entire sanctification in this life, holding up this infinitely important doctrine, both by principle and example, whenever they have the opportunity. They should be “living epistles known and read of all men.”

Unless Christians hold up the true light in contrast with the world’s darkness, they are the greatest curses that are in the world. They are like a false light that decoys the unwary mariners upon the rocks and quicksand’s. The world knows that you are professors of religion that you are set as a moral light-house. They therefore think it safe to steer in the direction in which your light indicates that they should go. If therefore the light that is in you be darkness, what a curse are you to your family, your neighborhood, and the world around you. They will look at you. They mark your words. They ponder well your temper, and spirit, and life. They feel themselves safe in copying your example, in drinking in of your spirit, and in steering their course to eternity, by your light.

As Christ has declared that, “His followers are the light of the world.” From this statement we could understand that the world is fills with darkness. So the Lord has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light as it is written in 1 Peter 2:9. A person should be able to witness the marvelous light that he/she had received from the Lord. That person should always carry the truth testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ in his/her life as we have mark of Jesus Christ in our Body according to Galatians 6:17. Christian life is not like a short term course but life long course. A person should not be tire of been a good Christian, and never go astray from the Lord. When Jesus Christ called His 12 apostles he taught them the truth and commanded them to go into the whole world and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the light of the world. While Jesus sent His disciples and said to them that let your light shine to others so that unbelievers who are in the darkness would also know the truth gospel which will brings them into enlightenment. Even now all the contemporary Christians should keep in mind that we are the light of the world. So that in every aspect of our live conducts to set an example to others, especially to non-believers for showing them the truth light. In this ways we may be able to enlighten the mission field.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- Q. 1. Why Christian need to go to Mission field to expose their light that they have received from the Lord?
- Q. 2. What will be the successful ways for enlightening the Mission field by the Christians?
- Q. 3. Why many missionaries are not successful when they are in the mission field?
- Q. 4. What will be the consequences if the Christians do not take heed towards mission field spiritually? Will the Lord be happy? If Yes/No, Why?

*By: Evan. Kowarson Bungdon Anal
Lecturer CBC Shillong*