

Jesus clearly declared in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Obviously, as believers, we must follow whatever Christ taught us in His Word.

Then, what does the lamp and the light has to do with the Word of God?

As we know, a lamp produces needed light within a short distance, to allow us to avoid obstacles and proceed in our activities. In essence, the lamp in the Word of God allows us to recognize and avoid temptations around us so we don't fall into sin.

The reason the apostle in 1Peter 1:13 said, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

On the other hand, powerful light is needed to guide us through the darkness of the world, so we can see the narrow path to follow Christ, and focus our lives to follow Him.

Why?

Mat 7:14: "Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Again, the Word of God is the powerful light that shows us the direction to follow Christ.

Do we, like the five wise virgins of Mat 25:1-13, keep our lamps filled with the oil of the Word of God, or are we like the five foolish ones?

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Jesus clearly said that He is the Light of the world. Therefore, if we profess to believe in Him as Savior, we must also believe in His Word, the light to our path, and follow Him and live accordingly. That means we surrender our lives to Him so He becomes Lord.

Why?

2Cor 4:6: "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

Ps 119:130, "The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."

How is that?

Heb 4:12: "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

2Tim 3:16: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

For what purpose should we follow the light?

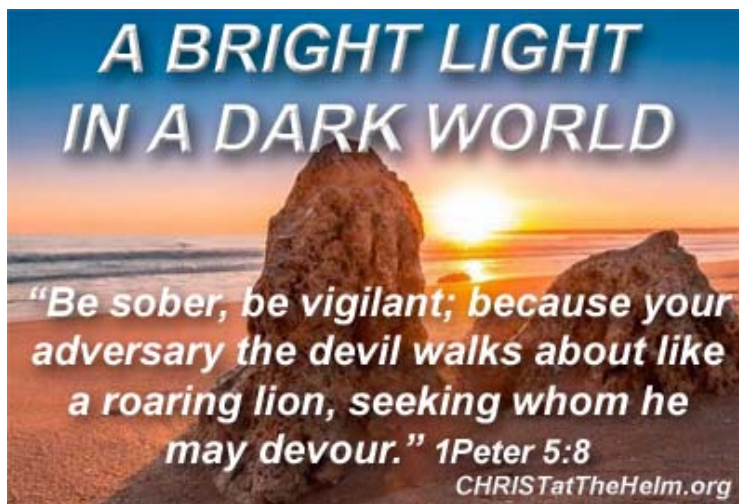
Ps 119:11: "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

1Cor 3:16: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Will we choose the light of Christ through His Word, or be lost in the darkness of the world forever?

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We live in a troubled and evil world, the reason we are warned to stay alert to avoid being trapped into sin. We are therefore called to resist darkness with the light of Christ.

How?

Rom 13:14: "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts."

Col 3:1-2: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Luke 21:34: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."

Rom 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Luke 22:40: "He said to them, 'Pray that you may not enter into temptation.'"

Why?

1John 1:5-7: "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Are we focused on following the Light of Christ?

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In following Christ, we carry His light for the purpose of reaching out to a lost and dying world.

This is what Jesus said on this in Mat 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

In other words, we carry a serious responsibility of shining His light so the world might know the truth and believe in Christ for salvation.

The reason Paul said in Eph 5:8: "For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

What Jesus said in Luke 8:16, leaves no doubt on this responsibility we have as believers saying, "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light."

Finally, the apostle in 2Peter 1:19 warns, "And so we have the prophetic Word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

Is our Christian testimony limited to church on Sundays, or does His light constantly shine brightly in our life?

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FOLLOWING CHRIST A MATTER OF THE HEART

***“As in water face reflects face,
so a man’s heart reveals the man.”***

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Pro 27:19

Following the Light of Christ is in all ways a matter of the heart. It isn't found in liturgies, sophisticated ready made prayers, or even religions. On the contrary, we are taught throughout the Word of God about the attitude of the heart we must have if we desire to follow Christ.

Here's what the bible says on this:

Philip. 4:8: “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

Pro 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Why?

Mat 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” In other words, our hearts determine who we really are deep inside.

Pro 20:27 tells us: “The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.”

The reason Ps 26:2 says, “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my mind and my heart.”

Is our heart attitude towards God to seek, as Ps 51:10 enjoin us to do, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me”?

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How challenging is it to follow Christ throughout our life?

The good news is that while we walk in this dark world, as 2Tim 1:7 tells us, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

How can we move forward on the path of righteousness?

Eph 6:13: “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

James 4:7: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

How difficult is it to resist temptations?

1Cor 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

What can we expect if we persevere and endure?

James 1:12: “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

Rom 5:3-4: “And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Will we persevere and press on towards the crown of life in Christ?

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