

“ Light unto the world ”

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 14-16) (NIV)

Light can be natural, artificial or spiritual. The light of the Sun is natural. The light of a lamp is artificial. The Word of God and the light of those who believe in it are spiritual.

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105) (KJV)

*“The god (Satan) of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness”, made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”
(2 Corinthians 4:4-6) (NIV)*

The city on the hill is the church which is seen by many people. The church should be bound together in love, friendship and service and reaching out to those that are still in the darkness in many area of the world beyond the church’s walls.

The shining lamps are individuals reflecting a spiritual revelation to the world. By living as examples, Christians are to show the way back to God. The world is blind and in darkness and it needs the “saints of light” to show the way.

In John 8:12, Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* Jesus is the source of the light.

In referring to us as “lamps” in Matthew, we are to reflect light, but we are not the source of the light. The moon does not have its own light, but reflects the light of the Sun (see Isaiah 30:26). Try reading by a candle that has not been lighted or by a lamp bulb that has not been connected to the power source and you will not be able to see any light. Likewise we cannot give light until we have received divine grace and enlightenment from the Spirit of God. Once we receive light, we are not to hide it under a “bowl” but shine the light for the world to see. We can hide the light by too much busyness or wrapped up in our own needs, or focusing inward instead of outward.

Are you reflecting the light of Jesus Christ ?