

You Are the Light of the World!

Matthew 5:14–15 (NKJV) — 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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.

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

Today, I need to set straight an erroneous teaching and doctrine some are espousing that once we are saved we do not have to do anymore to please God. This is a lie perpetrated by Satan to prevent you from experiencing the abundance of blessings God wants you to have here and in eternity.

- I. Let us learn about God's original plan for us
Genesis 2:8–9 (NKJV) — 8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15–17 (NKJV) — 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend (NIV – work) and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

- A. If disobeying God meant they would die, what would obeying God mean?
 1. It is obvious that death was not in the world and was not part of God's plan.
 - a. Why did death enter the world?
 - b. Who invited death into the world? By what action?
 2. it is also obvious the punishments inflicted upon man and woman were also not a part of God's plan.
 - a. If man had obeyed God would there be suffering in the world today?
- B. God's plan is for us to be abundantly blessed but that abundance and blessing is contingent upon obedience and doing the will of God!
- C. Now think, why does Jesus say this...
Matthew 6:19–20 (NKJV) — 19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

1. How would one store up treasures and what are the treasures that God is speaking about?
2. Christ wants us to center our lives around him in heaven, for everything about himself in heaven is life and security.
3. there are treasures in two places: on earth and in heaven.
 - a. we can work for things that can be seen and handled now
 - b. we can work for things that are eternal that by faith we received now
 - c. but what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul.
 - (1) Profits come as a result of work
4. Treasures in heaven are determined by the works that we do here on the earth. No works no treasures!

NO WORKS, NO TREASURES

Revelation 22:7 (NKJV) — 7 “Behold, I am coming quickly! *Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.*”

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV) — 12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, *to give to every one according to his work.*”

- D. It is expected that we do works after we are saved
Matthew 19:21 (NKJV) — 21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

1. When we take up our cross we are to follow Christ and do the works that Christ did.

John 14:12–14 (NKJV) — 12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

John 12:25–26 (NKJV) — 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor.

Ephesians 5:1 (NKJV) — 1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

2. As a result of these works we will receive reward.

Matthew 10:38–42 (NKJV) — 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.

42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

3. If we do not do the works of Christ, our salvation is in question because we are not producing the fruit of salvation and most certainly our promised increase and reward is at jeopardy.
John 15:2 (NKJV) — 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
4. We are to serve in his kingdom.
**Matthew 25:34–40 (NKJV) — 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’**
 - a. The result of these works?
34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

- E. James deals with this issue specifically
James 2:14–24 (NKJV) — 14 What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

- F. Your increase is contingent upon your doing the work Christ has called you to do.

Why would he give you spiritual gifts if he did not intend for you to use them for his kingdom?

Romans 12:6 (NKJV) — 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith;

1. Today, let us have a renewed zeal to serve the Lord by serving one another and doing good works for the glory of God!

- G. From this point on I pray I do not have to reinforce this teaching as much as I have today. I pray that you will resist anyone who tells you, you do not have to serve God because you are saved. Let me state this to you, if you are truly saved I should not have to encourage you to serve, your heart would be encouraging you!

IF YOU ARE TRULY SAVED YOUR HEART WOULD BE ENCOURAGING YOU TO SERVE GOD

1. It is obvious that many have shipwrecked their lives listening unbelieving they have no obligation to honor and serve God by presenting their body as a living sacrifice using their gifts for the kingdom of God.
2. The word of God makes it absolutely clear that your works do not save you but your works reward you!
3. For Guiding Light, or anyone, to receive an increase in 2018 they must honor God
4. Remember the warning given by John the Baptist;
Matthew 3:8–10 (NKJV) — 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
 - a. Remember the talents
 - b. Remember the foolish virgins
 - c. Remember the seed
 - d. So many different things are there to encourage you to do good works!

- H. Paul sums up salvation and the life afterwards this way
1 Corinthians 15:56–58 (NKJV) — 56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
58 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.

1. God is a righteous judge!

- I. What did Christ tell Peter after he restored him?
John 21:15–17 (NKJV) — 15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” 16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

- J. Recognize that anyone who does not remind you to serve God by holy and righteous living they are not of the Spirit of God! Separate yourselves from them!

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV) — 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

— 17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

1. Now it is time

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

Matt 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

2. We stand together in this church to help you and assist you at becoming all that God intends for you to be. if you have been lacking in doing what God called you to do, it is not too late to start today!

3. Let us work together

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV) — 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- II. The Bible Speaks of Eternal Rewards/ and Punishments. **WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?**