

**How to Shine Your Light for Christ**  
**Being a Reflector**  
**3/17/2019 Sunday AM**

**Introduction**

- Over the past several weeks we have spoken about the need to reach out to those around us and share the gospel.
- We are missionaries right where we are now and the more we have an attitude of humility and we invest in others, the more we invest in our “treasures in Heaven.”
- We are living in a dark world and we are to shine “our light” into this world to light it up.
- This morning we are going to discuss **How to Shine Your Light for Christ.**
- **Definition:** Shine – to give off or reflect light.

**Philippians 2:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe <sup>16</sup>as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

- We are supposed to be shining “like stars in the universe as [we] hold out the word of life.”
- This is something that the Bible speaks of often.
- However, it begs the question:

**How exactly do you shine?**

**Being counter-cultural.**

- **Romans 13:12**, “The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”
- We live in a dark world, full of lies, hate and confusion.
- While others are chasing after physical pleasures and selfish gain, we are commanded in **Romans 13:14**, “Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
- We are not called by God to be chameleons and to blend in, we are called to be bright lights in total darkness!
- In order to do this, we cannot always go along with the “norm,” we often times have to go “against the grain.”
- We sometimes forget that as Christians, the world watches our every step.
  - We have to consider our speech. We must be careful about what we say, and how we act. (Social media!!)
  - We have to consider our entertainment. What do we do for fun? (Places we go, music, movies...)
  - We have to consider others. In a “me, me, me” society, we must lead the way in being “selfless.”
- **We should be setting the standard for the world to follow, not us following the world’s standards.**

**Putting yourself out there.**

- **Matthew 5:14-16**, “<sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
- Jesus explained that no one lights a lamp just to hide it under a bowl.
- A lamp is meant to be placed on a stand to give light to everything around it.
- Whether you’re timid or outgoing, you’re called to be a light to the people around you.
- That’s only possible if you’re taking time to interact with people and cultivate relationships.
- If we seclude ourselves from the world or if we never engage with the world, we are hiding our lights.
- The world seems to be floundering around in darkness partly because there is less and less light being shown by Christians in the world we are living in.
- We cannot just complain that the world is dark, we must rise to the occasion and shine bright!

## **Always pointing back to the light source.**

- Really, we are not the light ourselves. Jesus is the light. We are mere reflectors of the light.
- Our job is to point people to Him.
- However, just like any “mirror,” we must stay “clean” in order to reflect at our fullest potential.
- Sin dulls our light in the same way dust or dirt dulls the reflective properties of a mirror.
- There is a fine line between being a light and putting on a show to get attention for ourselves.
- Our goal should never be to bring recognition to ourselves, but to bring glory to God.
- As **Matthew 5:16** says, <sup>16</sup>“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
- Whatever we do, we do to lead people to “praise [our] Father in heaven.”
  
- **How bright has your light been shining lately?**
- **Can you commit to burning bright this week?**

## **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Romans 9:30-10:21**