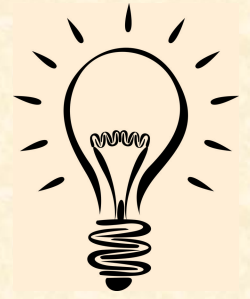


The Christian Light

Editor - Mitch Sparks



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

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“Into Our Hands”

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In Exodus 3, we read the account of Moses and the burning bush. God tells Moses that he is going to go before Pharaoh, and ultimately free God’s people from the bonds of slavery. Moses tried his best to get out of going by offering up several different excuses, all of which God refuted. In Exodus 4:2, God asked Moses, “What is that in your hand?” (NKJV). In his hand was a rod, a rod which God would use to show His power both to Moses and to the Egyptians.

This account should teach us many things about our responsibility as Christians. First, it should teach us that no number of excuses will free us from doing the work that God has commanded us to do. God did not allow Moses to get out doing his work, and we cannot get out of ours. We have been commanded to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

Second, we should learn from this account that the power does not come from ourselves. Moses did not think he could accomplish God’s will because he was just a man. We might often feel the same way Moses felt: “Who am I that I should go?” (Exo. 3:11); but we often forget that the power of God unto salvation is the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16), it is not in the power of man. Paul would tell the Corinthian church that he “did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God...that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Cor. 2:1, 5).

Just as God asked Moses what he had in his hand, let us consider what we have been given in our hands. We have been given the great and glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, through which He speaks (Heb. 1:2). The power does not reside in us, but in the Gospel. We often sing the song titled “Into Our Hands,” which declares the truth that “into our hands the Gospel is given.” This is true for those of us who are Christians, but the question becomes what are we doing with it? Let us consider the words of the song, along with other Biblical truths, and evaluate ourselves. Do we trust in the power of God, and His promise to be with us as we accomplish His will (Matt. 28:20), or, like Moses, do we try to make excuses to avoid doing God’s work?

“Swiftly we’re turning life’s daily pages, Swiftly the hours are changing to years.”

It is no secret to both Christians and non-Christians that this life on earth is short (James 4:13-17). The Bible is full of reminders for us that we need to work while we have the opportunity, for “night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4). The Holy Spirit through Paul told the church at Ephesus “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16). All of us have a limited amount of time to accomplish things, and we all have many things that compete for our time and attention. How do we spend our time? As the song asks, “How are we using God’s golden moments?” We cannot

expect to spend all of our time on worldly and materialistic things while neglecting the work our Lord has commanded us to do and expect to be rewarded with entering Heaven.

“While we rejoice our sins are forgiv’n; Did He not also die for these lost ones?”

Christians should always be thankful for God’s “incredible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15). All who are Christians were once lost in sin, and we were on a path that would require us to pay the wages of our sin, which is the second death (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8). We must always be thankful and joyful for our forgiveness, but we must also desire for others to feel that same thanksgiving and joy.

Christ died for all (Heb. 2:9), but as the song points out to us, not everyone knows that Christ offered Himself in our place and offers salvation to all by doing so. Many others want to seek Christ and obey Him but have never been taught how to properly do so, and they are walking about with false hope, thinking they have done what is required of them. Jesus commissioned His apostles to take the Gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:15), and the apostles then taught the first century church to do the same (Acts 8:4; cf. 2 Tim. 2:2). We must continue to follow their example and spread the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and the hope that is found in Him and Him alone.

“Into our hands the gospel is given, Into our hands is given the light.”

It is up to the church to take the Gospel to the world. We cannot sit on the Gospel and expect people to come to the truth and obey it on their own. Not everyone is going to obey when we teach it, but we can know without question that no one will obey the Gospel if we do not teach it. According to worldpopulationreview.com, 114 people die every minute. Many of these people will die in a lost state, having never obeyed the Gospel of Christ. With that sobering reality in mind, “Haste, let us carry God’s precious message, Guiding the erring back to the right.” How are we spending our time? “Shall we reap glory? Shall we reap tears?”

From The Editor ... Hello to all, if you or the congregation you attend would like to receive this monthly email publication please send your name and email to mspark0384@gmail.com and in the subject line of the email type “sign up for The Christian Light.” Thanks, Mitch Sparks