

**The Redeemed Christian Church of God
Christ's Love Assembly (CLA), Brussels.
7th Year Anniversary**

Saturday 13th December, 2008.

Keeping the Light Burning

Text: Leviticus: 24: 1-4; Mat. 5: 14-16

Introduction:

I have heard the story told of a lighthouse keeper who worked on a rocky stretch of coastline and who received his new supply of oil once a month to keep the light burning. Not being far from shore, he had frequent guests. One night a woman from the village begged some oil to keep her family warm. Another time a father asked for some to use in his lamp. Another needed some to lubricate a wheel. Since all the requests seemed legitimate, the lighthouse keeper tried to please everyone and granted them all. Toward the end of the month he noticed that the supply of oil was very low. Soon, it was gone, and the beacon light went out. That night several ships were wrecked and lives were lost. When the authorities investigated, the man was very repentant. To his excuses and pleading their reply was: "You were given the oil for one purpose -- to keep that light burning!"ⁱ

In the Book of Leviticus that we read earlier on, the Children of Israel were commanded to get pure olive oil beaten for the light to keep the light burning continually. The light must burn from evening until morning, continually and it shall be a statute for ever in your generations.

In Exo. 25: 3 -9, the Lord specifically gave instructions to Moses on the Mount about the Tabernacle. Vs. 6 – Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense.

Also in the book of Obadiah verse 18 says: “And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the Lord has spoken it.”

The need to keep the light of God burning was underscored by the Lord Jesus Christ in one of the teachings on the Mount – the Beatitudes - In verses 14-16 he said "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it gives light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven " Jesus has given us His light, Jesus has made us light, for only one purpose – to shine for Jesus. Like the lighthouse keeper we have no excuse if we do not keep the light burning.

Why is God interested in the Light?

1. We know that "in the beginning," way back at the start of time, there was no light; instead, there was only darkness. You remember what God did on the first day of Creation:

(Gen 1:3-4) And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (4) God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

God not only made light, but on the fourth day He also made the light sources or producers:

(Gen 1:16) God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

Why did God make the light? The reason is that light is a necessary – even a vital – part of God's created order for the physical universe. Any grade school student can tell us about photosynthesis – how green plants take light energy and use it to convert water, carbon dioxide, and minerals into oxygen and carbohydrates. Without light there wouldn't be photosynthesis. And, without photosynthesis there wouldn't be life, at least as we know it today.

2. Light is not only a necessary part of God's created order for the physical universe, it is also a necessary part of God's created order in the spiritual realm of life. There is as great a need for light in the spiritual realm as there is in the

physical realm. Without light, physical life is impossible. Similarly, without light, spiritual life is impossible.

How did God reflect his true light for the World?

God reflected his light by sending his son to bear the light. Jesus declared in the Book of John 8:12: “Then spake Jesus again to them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness; but shall have the light of light.”

The Light of Christ is available to the whole world. Jesus himself confirmed that many times in the book of John

- 1) [John 1:7-9](#) “The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”
- 2) [John 9:5](#) “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
- 4) [John 12:46](#) “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”

Why should we have the light burning at all times?

- 1) [Ephesians 5:8](#) “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light”
- 1) [1 Thessalonians 5:5](#) “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”
- 2) [Acts 13:47](#) “For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.”
- 3) [Philippians 2:15](#) “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”
- 4) [Matthew 5:16](#) “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
- 5) [John 12:36](#) “While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.”

Darkness is often described as the absence of light. What that means is that as soon as the light fails to shine, darkness automatically sets in. When the children of light fail to shine the light of Christ, there will be no need for an invitation, darkness will naturally set in.

No wonder Jesus said: in [John 3:19, 20](#) “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d.”

The world we live in thrives in darkness. It loves darkness than the light; but we must demonstrate that we are the children of light by allowing our light to shine at all times so that darkness cannot comprehend it.

Conclusion:

We better not fail to join the children to sing the song: this little light of mine, I am gonna let it shine. Shine the Light of Jesus for all to see and to lighten our environment.

Sunday 14th December, 2008.

ARISE AND SHINE FOR THY LIGHT IS COME

Text: Isaiah 60: 1 – 22.

This passage is related to the beginning of creation. The Bible says in Genesis 1: 1- 5:

1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

***2** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

***3** And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

***4** And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

***5** And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

Things were without form and they were in a state of void; but God stepped in and the first thing he did was to command that there be light. Hence, he is asking us to show forth the light of God. There is a lot happening in the world today that can be likened to what the Bible says in Isa. 60: 2: “For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.” There has been no time that darkness has covered the land as we do have it today; but the Lord is making promises of how he will distinguish us if we can but arise from our sleep.

In line with our theme, which states that we are the light of world, the Bible is saying here that we need to shine that light. We heard yesterday that we should keep the light burning; but today the Bible is saying that we should allow the light to shine. We need to display the glory of the Lord in this confused world. We need to show that something is in us that the world must look for and buy.

[Ephesians 5:14](#) “Wherefore he saith, awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.”

When we rise up and shine for the Lord, Christ will continue to give us light (illumination).

There are specific things the Lord is calling us to do:

1. Lift up your eyes round about, and see all they gather themselves together and they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed by thy side.
2. Thou shalt see and flow together and your heart shall fear and be enlarged because of the abundance of the sea shall be converted to thee and the forces of the gentiles shall come to thee.

There are so many promises there once we shine the light of God:

1. The people from Sheba shall come to us with their silver and their gold and bring praise to the Lord (vs. 6). See also verse 9.
2. I will glorify the house of my glory (v.7)
3. The sons of strangers shall build thy wall and their Kings shall minister to thee. (vs.10).
4. Your gates shall be opened continually and they shall not be shut day and night and the forces of the gentiles and their Kings shall be brought to you.(vs.11)
5. The Glory of Lebanon shall come to you and I will make the place of my feet glorious (v.13).
6. Those who oppressed you will come back begging and they will bow at your feet and they will call you a different name from what they used to call you (v.14).
7. Although you were hated, so that men treated you like a plague, but I will make you an eternal Excellency, the joy of many generations (v.15)

8. You will suck the milk of kings and you will know the Lord and know that he is the Savior and the Redeemer, the mighty one of Israel. (v.16).
9. For your poverty, the Lord will bring you into prosperity. (v.17).
10. You will no longer experience violence and your gates shall be called Praise. (v.18).
11. Your sun shall be longer down. Your glory shall no longer be diminished (v.20)
12. Your people shall be righteous (v. 21-22).

Conclusion: This weekend, God has destined us for greatness and he wants to shine his light; the Light is already lit and we should arise and shine to the glory of God.

i This message was preached at Christ's Love Assembly (CLA), a parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God on the occasion of the 7th Anniversary of the church from 13th December to 14th December, 2008.