

Light and Life

Past generations' most quoted verse in the Bible was John 3:16. The most quoted verse of my generation will be Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, that you be not judged." Of course, as past generations treated John 3:16, context will be considered optional.

Jesus plainly taught that the real problem with judgment is when it is done in hypocrisy! "First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (Mt. 7:5). Personally, I don't really want anyone touching my eyeballs, but certainly not someone who can't see what they are doing!

Jesus rhetorically asked His disciples, "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit?" (Lk. 6:39). If we are to make judgments and lead people to Christ, we must have clear vision ourselves!

This requires us to live in such a way that we can be considered blameless. The problem with hypocritical judgment is that it can be given right back to the one who dishes it out. "With what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you" (Mt. 7:2).

As Christians, our reputations matter in this world because of the name we wear – we are representing Christ! "Do all things without complaining and disputing *that you may become blameless* and innocent... in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, *among whom you shine as lights in the world*" (Ph. 3:14-15).

Contrary to worldly preference, godly judgment requires a spiritual mindset (1 Co. 2:15). However, we must take great care to never play the hypocrite, and to ensure that we make our judgments in a loving way.

- Sam Bunyard

Godly Judgment

Just My Thoughts

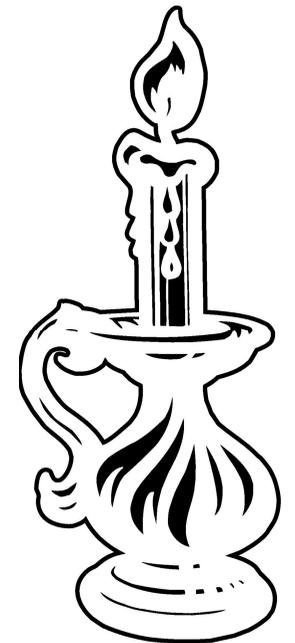
"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:15-16).

We have a special calling as Christians – a commission to spread the Gospel of Christ to all with whom we come in contact. We sometimes interpret this to mean that we must teach in a devotional or class setting, or that we must make some massive evangelistic gesture to teach the Gospel. However, what this verse indicates to us is that by living our lives, and living them unashamed of the name of Christ that we bear, we are showing the people around us the glory of God.

We have opportunity, every one of us, to live lives that demonstrate the light of Christ. Whether we have a 'water-cooler conversation' with someone about the Bible, whether we are helping a co-worker or neighbor in need, or whether we are aiding the community in times of distress, we are showing the light of Christ in us. And this can be invaluable. As it has been said before, "We may be the only Bible that some people read." In understanding this, we need to live lives that demonstrate the love of Christ with boldness and with passion, so that we can spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all who come in contact with us.

- Hayden Cathey

This Little Light of Mine



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
 Morning Assembly 10:30
 Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
 KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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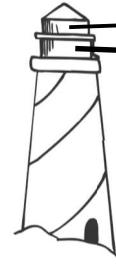
**Get in step with God,
 not the world.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
 Perry Johnson
 Ken Parker
 Alan Revier
 GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
 Scott Hale
 Joel Heiligenthal
 Jason Hill
 Chris Johnson
 Brock McKeel
 Randy Potter
 Tim Roberts
 Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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 ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES TO REMEMBER –

It's not too early to mark your 2023 calendars:
 Mar 12-15 (Mark Roberts meeting) & Apr 21 (Stevens/Shepard singing).

SENTENCE SERMON – “Then He spoke a parable to them, **that men always ought to pray and not lose heart**” – Lu 18:1.

Christians – Blessed

In this season when many are more prone to consider their blessings than at other times of the year (a lesson in itself), let's not forget to be thankful for what we have as Christians – for those blessings that pertain **only** to God's children.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ep 1:3). What blessings would these be? As Paul goes on to enumerate, we are chosen and adopted by God, we are redeemed through the blood of Jesus and thus forgiven of our sins, and we have

obtained an inheritance. For those who are looking into eternity, such blessings are priceless.

But sadly, many are **not** looking to eternity. Their mind is consumed with today – with the toys, the trinkets, and the trivia of this life. Yet eternity looms before all of us; and only a fool would ignore it.

And note that these spiritual blessings are only found “in Christ”, i.e., only for those who are baptized believers (Ga 3:26-27) – and who live like it (5:16). Those so blessed should remember to say ‘thank You’ – and often.

- *WKing*