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Perry Hill Road Bulletin

Letting Your Light Shine

In the Sermon on the Mount our Lord told His disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16).

"You are the light of the world" is one of those statements which should cause us to lift up our heads and make us realize what a glorious thing it is to be a Christian. The apostle Paul told the Ephesians, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). We not only have received the "light" of the gospel of Christ, we have become transmitters of that light.

Our light is meant to be seen by men. A Christian should be the same in his place of employment, the schoolroom or on the golf course as he is in the assembly of the saints. Jesus did not say, "You are the light of the church," but rather, "You are the light of the world." As we live in the world, our Christianity should be evident to all. Our good deeds ought to draw attention, not to ourselves, but to God.

Sometimes, instead of "letting our light shine," brethren prefer to "shine their lights" in the face of others -- forcing the world to look at them. Instead of behaving as "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people" (1 Pet. 2:9), some revel in the idea of standing out in the crowd -- they become a living "Church Lady" skit from *Saturday Night Live*.

Our Lord warned His disciples that when they did charitable deeds they should not "sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men" (Matt. 6:2). The deed was not wrong -- drawing attention to it was.

Jesus assumed that His disciples would fast. There is nothing wrong with fasting in itself. Hypocrites in the days of Jesus would often "disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting" (Matt. 6:16).

