

Walk as children of light ... Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-10

Store In My Heart

Luke 1:3-4

It also seemed good to me, since I have carefully investigated everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence, most honorable Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed.

In this first part of a history of Jesus and His Church, Luke addresses an individual, though his message is one that every individual needs to understand.

These verses give us his purpose in recording the events of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Having carefully investigated the events, Luke compiled an orderly account for the express purpose of helping Theophilus to be certain of what he was following. In other words, Luke wanted to strengthen the faith of this individual by giving him confidence that what he had been taught was true. We need such confidence today.



“Because Of You”

Joel Raulerson

One of the most powerful passages to me in scripture has always been **Romans 2:24**. Paul wrote, For, as it is written, *“The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”* **Romans 2** is an excellent chapter dealing with hypocrisy. This was a big problem with the Jewish people of the first century. They would boast about their love for God, their reliance on scripture, their memorization, heritage, etc. Yet, the very sins they condemned the rest of the world for, were the very sins they were committing themselves! **Romans 2:21-23** says, *“You then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.”* Let us ask ourselves whether or not we are guilty of the same hypocrisy as these 1st century Christians.

I began to notice this hypocrisy when I was a teenager working in the fast food industry. From time to time, I would see fellow Christians come in to eat where I worked, and they acted nothing like a Christian. When they should have been striving to be lights to the world and set godly examples, they were treating their fellow man horribly, saying things they shouldn't be saying, and dressing in a manner that was not modest. In **Matthew 5:14-16**, Jesus tells us, *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill*

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach is dealing with tooth issues.

Dan's Aunt Joyce Rickard is back in ICU with covid and other complications.

The Simpson family is out of town this weekend.

Jerry Henderson is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Tonight we start in 1Samuel 30:16.

Wednesday at 7 pm in Ephesians 6:5.

Join us for all these studies.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

We are supposed to be an example to our communities and try and bring others to serve the Lord. However, sometimes I feel we are guilty of looking like a bunch of hypocrites. Do we strive to look and act like the rest of the world while at the same time condemning them for their sinful actions? The sad truth is I have heard some "worldly people" justly pointing out when Christians are not acting like they should. Brothers and sisters, make no mistake, the world is watching us even if we don't realize it. We are affecting how the people around us view the church, our local congregation, and Christ. This should be a positive thing. Yet, I'm afraid we sometimes look like the brethren in **Romans 2**.

Wouldn't it be so much better to hear, "The name of God is praised among the community because of you." The same Christians that can destroy the reputation of the church in a community also have the opportunity to bring others to Christ. When out in the world, choose to show love to everyone you encounter (**1John 4:7-8**). Treat your family the way they ought to be treated rather than having fits of anger and disrespect (**Ephesians 6:1-4**). When you're at work, work as if you are working for the Lord and don't be lazy. **Colossians 3:23** says, "*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,*" If we are living our lives in this way, we truly can bring honor to God in our communities. Examine yourself. Is the word of God being praised or blasphemed in your community because of you?

(I do not know the author of this article, but his point is one that is much needed today. Everyday we interact with others is an opportunity to shine God's Light in the world. When we join the world in ridiculing others because of their beliefs and hopes we hide His Light by our darkness. When we dress to be popular or noticed in accordance with the world's standards, we hid His Light by our darkness. Our speech, attitude, action, yes, everything about me should strive to shine, not hide The Light. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!