

The Light of The World

This is the month of December which on the 25th day will set the mark of our Lord's birthday. Of course, I am not definite that this is the day, but it is one which all recognize to be the glorious day when Good Will and Glad Tidings come to the people of the world; a great Missionary from Heaven and the Father, to redeem mankind from eternal destruction of hell, fire and brimstone.

The most outstanding and appropriate Scripture that will be used at this season is found in the Gospel of Luke, the 2nd chapter. This chapter describes how it all happened and came about. Of course, this hour and incident will be hallowed among all Nations, but I am made to wonder if the World knows what has happened since the days our Lord trod the streets of what we call the Holy Land.

I would like to use one of the statements spoken by our Master who explored the great light for man in the early part of His ministry on earth which was a little better than three years. They are found in the Gospel of Matthew and I quote, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth 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."

Another Scripture that I would like to use in conjunction with this one is found in St. John, the 4th chapter of which I will state a few phrases where Jesus said that John was a burning and shining light in his day.

The following verse states that Jesus, Himself, said that He was a greater witness (Light) than John. Following this we find, in the Scriptures used above, that in the absence of Christ, the Church is the light of the world. I am wondering how many people realize the great birthday of The Church of God when Jesus established it on top of the mountain in fulfillment of the words, "I will build my Church"? Then again, how many people in this world realize the Rise Shine of the Church, this great light, this side of the Dark Ages that was in 1903 in Cherokee County, North Carolina, in a place now known as Fields of the Wood.

In 1922, the enemy attempted to blow this candle light out and really gave it such a hard puff that only a handful out of a mass of thousands were left to keep this glorious light burning. Another man bore the scars, the persecutions and wounds; bore the mark of a thief and a false prophet as did our Savior. When hanging between two thieves, Jesus, Himself, was compared by His brethren to be a thief and a false prophet and classed Him to be a wicked man. This shame He despised; His cross He endured for the joy that was set before Him. In 1957, on the Memorial Day of February 13, the Church was saved again! The enemy had snatched the candlestick and was determined to smother its light -- that it would shine no more. This had been the enemy's aim, to destroy Jesus, the Church in its early days and the Church in the last days; but thanks be to God there has always been a man ready to save the Church, that the world might continue to have its light, for without The Church of God, there is no light in the world.

The two candlesticks, and yet they are one, for Christ, Himself, was this great candlestick with the Seven flaming lights. Then the Church became the candlestick with its Seven flaming lights. The Church as Paul reveals in Ephesians in the first chapter, verses 22-23, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all." Wouldn't it be wonderful if the world could be awakened to the great birthday of The Church of God as it awakened to the birthday of our Christ? Since the church is to fill all in all and finish the work of our Christ, the light of the world, I do not think it would be robbery to say the Church is equal to Christ. The same Word of God has made them two and those two, one. So, when we think of Christmas, let us not only think of part of Christ, but let us really honor Him as for what He is and consider the great light of the world. We did not make ourselves this: He did this and declared His church to be The Light of The World! Let us, The Church of God, do something this Christmas to get the light of The Great Church of God to others. Make some sort of a gift or sacrifice that really will send His light through The Church of God to others, in the Regions Beyond. This issue of The Vision Speaks is being dedicated to our Mission Fields and the great Evangelistic effort. Is there something we can do? Perhaps send The Vision Speaks to some soul or family as a gift for another year. This is one way of supporting our other activities of the church, for as the Scripture hath said, in 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."

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