

The Inscrutable Question: “Light” is Divine Thought Sophisticated Believers Shine into the Devil’s World Glorifying God, 1 Peter 3:13-17; Matt 5:14-16

- 24- Nevertheless, we are obligated to convey the truth to any who provides the opportunity for us to verbalize an explanation. Peter elaborates:

1 Peter 3:13 - Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

v. 14 - But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation and do not be troubled,

v. 15 - but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

v. 16 - and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

v. 17 - For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

Peter repeats himself in verse 17 with regard to taking a stand for truth. He first mentions this principle in:

1 Peter 2:20b - But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

- 25- And this “favor with God” includes the fact that when we apply His Word under pressure it becomes a manifestation of the God’s thoughts utilized by a human being to resolve the problems encountered in the Invisible War.
- 26- It is this approach that brings glory to God in the appeal trial. It is a courtroom testimony by the believer that the Word of God is alive and powerful; that the Word of God is more real than the reality he faces.
- 27- Our Lord refers to the application of the Word of God in the devil’s world to be as a light shining in darkness resulting in the glorification of God:

Matthew 5:14 - “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

v. 15 - “Nor do men light a lamp and put it under the peck-measure, but on a lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

v. 16 - “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

- 28- Light is necessary for man to see his way otherwise he is trapped in darkness. Both “lamp” and “light” are used figuratively in Scripture for the Word of God:

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- 29- As we accumulate the “light” of the Word into our souls we take on the thinking of God which gives us “light,” or direction in our decision-making and problem-solving.
- 30- But this “light,” or divine truth, is invisible and thus imperceptible to others who accompany us in our daily walk. The only way it can become perceptible to others is through our application of it to life and circumstances. This application occasionally involves the articulation of biblical truths in response to the events that transpire in daily life.



- 31- Our Lord's point in Matthew 5:14-16 is that the believer is personally guided by this "light." But those who light a lamp do not cover it up so that its flame cannot cast its light to the entire house.
- 32- We are advised to let our "light" shine before men. This requires from us the willingness and the ability to insert truth into a discussion when given the opportunity.
- 33- Great opportunity has been given to us to express divine viewpoint regarding the recent events that have shaken our nation's moorings. People are confused and have retreated to a great degree into fear and guilt which they manage by means of either projection or denial.
- 34- Our confused and lightless fellow citizens need to hear the truth about why our nation is under assault and what the solutions to the problems are.