

The Light of the World (Pt. 2)

Matthew 5:14-16

I. The Picture Jesus Uses (14a)

A. Two Kinds of Light

1. The collective light of the lamps of an entire city (14b)
2. The individual light of a lamp in a one-room home (15)

B. Two Functions of Light

1. Exposes the filth hidden in darkness
2. Reveals the beauty hidden in darkness

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II. The Point Jesus Makes (14b-16)

A. Our Influence Is Inevitable (14b) – *“cannot be hidden”*

B. Our Influence Is Intentional (15-16)

1. To Give Light to the World (15)

a. To expose what is false and sinful (Jn. 3:19-20)

b. To illumine what is true and beautiful (Jn. 3:21)

2. To Bring Glory to the Father (16)

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- I. Our Good Works must be Deployed as a Means of Influence (16a)

The Misuse of Mt. 5:16

1. To justify not sharing the gospel—"just be salt and light"
2. To identify the grounds on which we're made right with God
3. To focus the church mostly on humanitarian causes
4. To summarize the church's primary mission

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- I. Our Good Works must be Deployed as a Means of Influence (16a)
 - We are light to the unbelievers around us through...
 - A. Our Message (2 Cor. 4:2-5)
 - B. Our Character (Mt. 5:3-12)
 - C. Our Good Works (Mt. 5:16)
- II. Our Good Works must be Defined by God in His Word (16b)

A Brief Historical Perspective

1. Theological Liberalism defined good works solely as improving society, which they called “the social gospel.”
2. Fundamentalism defined good works as solely proclaiming the gospel.
 - Ultra Fundamentalism
 - Evangelicalism
3. The “Emergent Church” defined good works as solely humanitarian causes, which they called “social justice.”

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- II. Our Good Works must be Defined by God in His Word (16b)
 - A. Only believers can perform good works (Jer. 13:23; Rom. 3:12; 8:7-8; Heb 11:6).
 - B. Good works are evidence of true saving faith (Jam. 2:14, 18, 26).
 - C. Everything a believer does for God's glory is a good work (e.g., Mk. 14:6; 1 Tim. 5:10; 6:18; Titus 2:14).
 - D. Doing good works for unbelievers is not the primary mission of the church (Mt. 28:19-20; Gal. 6:10; 1 Th. 5:15).

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- I. Our Good Works must be Deployed as a Means of Influence (16a)
- II. Our Good Works must be Defined by God in His Word (16b)
- III. Our Good Works must be Directed toward God for His Glory (16c)
 - A. His Glory in Gracious Salvation
 - B. His Glory in Just Condemnation