

Let the Lower Lights Be Burning– Part II

By Arne Kohl

Christians have access to mercy through prayer and obedience to God.

Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace that we might receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.”

That great mercy shown us is to flow from us.....to others.

James 2:13- says, “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

We are to be good stewards of the gospel light that God has given us.

I Thes. 2:4-12

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

⁵ For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness:

⁶ Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

⁷ But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

⁸ So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

⁹ For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

¹⁰ Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

¹¹ As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

¹² That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

The gospel was entrusted to the Apostle Paul, and to the other Apostles. It is also entrusted to us as Disciples of Christ,, as Christians to toil for God, and to spread His word, AND LIVE IT.

Do you remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25? Surely we will have to give an account someday of how we used our talents. An account of how our light shone as we were living. We can be good stewards of the gospel light by obeying Christ.

Matt.5:14-16- “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

15- “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the ouse.”

16- “Let your light so shine before men that⁵ they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The first command written in the Bible was, “Let there be light.” Genesis 1:3. Do you think there was a reason for this?

Life as we know it cannot exist without light. *Darkness has a very depressing effect on life.* Admiral Robert Perry when talking about his explorations to the North Pole said that the worst obstacles were not the cold and snow, but the long periods of darkness. He said the darkness took away the spirit of the men.

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Think of being lost in the sea. Your ship or boat has been sunk. Now darkness falls upon you. How horrible that would be. The sun goes down and with it all the warmth it brings. *Are there sharks in these waters? Other perils?* This terror has happened to many seamen.

Then think that as bad as it is, being lost at sea in the blackness of night, *It is worse to be drowning in the blackness of sin.*

Isaiah 57:20-21 says, “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up dirt and mire. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”

Those that are not doing the will of God are doomed, if not rescued, to find themselves in the eternal darkness of hell.

Jude 13 describes hell as “the blackness of darkness forever.”

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

It is our job as Christians to be the light of the world. We are to be that glowing lower light that helps others out of that darkness. *We are to tell God’s word to the world.* We are to let our light shine by living a Godly life, and not possibly causing others to stumble.

There is a story that once a blind man walked up and down the dark streets of a city carrying a candle. That’s kind of silly isn’t it? What was he going to see? Then someone asked him why a blind man carried a candle he replied, “I carry the candle so no one will stumble over me.” He didn’t want to be that stumbling block that we can be so many times in our lives if we aren’t careful.

From verse two of our song –*Let’s read it: “Dark the night of sin has settled, Loud the angry billows roar; Eager eyes are watching, longing for the lights along the shore.*

There are people out there eagerly searching. There is something missing in their lives. It is something you can give them by teaching them the gospel? Probably, BUT you have to be willing to do it.

Verse three of our song tells us that we have that individual responsibility to keep our lamps trimmed and ready to give out the light that this world needs.- *Trim your feeble lamp, my brother, Some poor seaman tempest tossed; trying now to make the harbor, In the darkness may be lost.*

What can you as one person do?

There is a story about a large ocean liner that was having trouble on a storm tossed sea. The entire crew was working hard to save the ship. During the storm a sailor fell and injured himself. He had to be taken to his quarters. While in his quarters he heard the shout from above, “Man overboard.”

The sailor got himself out of bed and lit his small lamp and held it at the porthole. The faint light that the lamp provided was just enough for the seaman above to spot the man overboard and rescue him from drowning.

IF all of us kept our lights burning at the same time, those trying to make the harbor would not be lost in the darkness of sin.

The chorus of the song says, *“Let the lower lights be burning, send a gleam across the wave, some poor fainting, struggling seaman, you may rescue, you may save.”*

Will some one be lost because you or I have been hiding our light under a bushel?

Or because we failed to preach the Gospel as Christ commanded?

Think of how cruel we are if we fail to keep the lower lights burning. God showed us mercy. Let’s show our mercy. Remember your soul depends on this!

Dear Lord,

**Help us to understand that our faith is always on display, even when we don’t realize that someone is looking to us.
Help us to let the lower lights be burning, to forever stand as a beacon in the night to those you may send our way.
Father please brighten and intensify our light so that it may reach further into the darkness and lead others to your shore of eternal life.**

In Christ Jesus name we pray.....Amen