

## LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

The five words that make up our title come from a command made by Jesus in the sermon on the mount. The whole verse reads, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). It would be good for us to understand that this is not a suggestion, but a command. We are not at liberty to do this or not do this as we determine for ourselves. One is either obeying this command or disobeying this command. To disobey it is to be guilty of sin!

Notice also the little adverb "so". This indicates there is a certain manner in which one is to shine his or her light. It is similar to the words of Paul to Timothy, when he said, "that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself" (I Tim. 3:15). The concept of being a shining light is that of being an example, and everyone is an example of something, whether good or bad. Therefore, as the last part of that verse indicates, our manner must be one that is indicative of one who brings glory to the Father in heaven.

Paul told Timothy to be an example of a Christian. He said, "...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Tim. 4:12). Being an example of a Christian is to do that which the gospel of Christ instructs a Christian to do. In Paul's instructions to Timothy on this matter, he included the manner of speech, the manner of life, the manner of love, the manner of dedication, the manner of trust and the manner of sanctification. Surely, when one sets the Christian example in all these areas, it can not help but show glory to the God of heaven. Paul told the Philippian brethren to, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:14-15).

As has been pointed out to most, there is a difference in letting your light shine and shining your light. Jesus said in that same sermon on the mount, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 6:1). While being sure to let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven, be sure you are not shining your light for your own glorification of men. Now shine on!

*Tilis*

## I WANT TO BE A WORKER FOR THE LORD

Most people in general and especially those who claim Christianity believe that lying is wrong. Those who claim Christianity believe that not only is it wrong, but that it is a sin. It is sometimes astounding to look at the lists in which the inspired word includes lying. Paul wrote, "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that define themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for **liars**, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine" (I Tim. 1:9-10). The apostle John wrote in the book of Revelation, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all **liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:7-8). Now what has this to do with the title of this article.

There is a song in most hymn books with the same title as this article. This song is sung occasionally in the various worship services. However, many that sing the song are not "working for the Lord". It is true that some few are simply not physically able to do very much, but if they are capable of attending the service so that they can sing the song, they have the ability to do some work for the Lord at any rate.

Those who are able to be a worker for the Lord, but are not doing so are lying when they sing "I want to be a worker for the Lord"! Paul told the Colossians to "Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16). Therefore he who sings the song but is not a worker for the Lord is not only a liar, but a hypocrite, for he is teaching others to do that which he will not do. Paul told the Romans, "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself" (Rom. 2:21)?

We certainly are not suggesting that anyone stop singing the song. What we are suggesting is that we do that which we say we want to do, lest we be found to be liars and find ourselves cast into the lake of fire in the last day.