



## “We’ll Leave The Light On For You” By Mike Riley

A motel chain once had a series of radio commercials that ended with the reassuring words, “We’ll leave the light on for you.”

When I would come to visit my grandmother, sometimes it would be late at night before I would arrive at her house. She reassured me that no matter the reason or the time, the porch light would be burning. Its warm beams seem to say, “This is where you belong; Someone loves you here; You are home.”

Jesus said that we who know Him as Savior and Lord are lights in this sin-darkened world (**Matthew 5:14-16**), We are reflections of Christ, who is “**the true Light**” (**John 1:9**).

As John the Baptist was a “**witness of the Light**” and pointed people to Jesus (**John 1:7**), so can we. Our faithful walk of obedience to Him is a beacon of God’s love and truth. Our lives and words are beams of warm light piercing the cold darkness of this world. We are like a porch light late at night, drawing those outside of Christ to Him, assuring them that Someone loves and waits to welcome them home.

Perhaps a member of our family is still in spiritual darkness. Maybe we’re concerned about a friend or co-worker’s spiritual state. Let’s keep finding ways to draw their attention to the Lord and His word.

Let’s be sure and “**leave the light (of God’s word) on for them**” (**Psalm 119:105; cf. Proverbs 6:23**).

We are a congregation of the Lord’s people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

Thank you for being our Guest today!



*"I am come  
a light into  
the world,  
that  
whosoever  
believeth on  
me should  
not abide in  
darkness."*

*John 12:46*

*"The LORD  
is my light  
and my  
salvation;  
whom shall  
I fear? The  
LORD is the  
strength of  
my life; of  
whom shall  
I be afraid?"*

*Psalms 27:1*

The lyrics of the song are instructive to us today. God's great grace, love, and mercy is the greater light which shines for all to see into the distant and far ocean of sin. He draws the lost from the great darkness that is around them and leads them toward the safety of harbor. Those souls, however, as they near shore need additional guidance to finally make it safely in. These "harbor lights" are what allows them to dock and set foot on shore. God is the greater light, but Christians are these lesser, harbor lights, who use the light which God gives them, through teaching and influence, to illuminate others to the safe shore.

What can we do for those around us who are in darkness and struggling to come to the shore? We can love them by extending help and aid to those approaching the shore. Matthew 22:39 states, *"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* We can provide the right example for those around us to encourage them to extend their lights to those in need of rescue. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul writes, *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."* We can keep our lights pure and holy so that they will shine bright and not grow dim. James 1:27 states, *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*

Jesus said in the great sermon on the mount, *"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 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"* (Matthew 5:13-16).

We have a choice before us. We can either let our light shine, or we can hide it. If we hide our light, then it does no one any good at all, including ourselves. However, if we let our light shine, then we have a great opportunity to glorify God. The few things listed above are just some things that one may do to let his light shine. There are many more. What are you doing to let your light shine? Find something, anything, that you can do to let your light shine and then SHINE!

# The Lower Lights

By Kevin Cauley

On our recent trip to Maine, we had the opportunity to see several lighthouses. One we were able to visit up close as it was located within the boundaries of the national park and accessible by car. This particular lighthouse was not one of the tall, stately, and grand lighthouses that one is accustomed to think about when considering lighthouses, but rather, a shorter light. There were several of these lighthouses around the island on which we stayed. The tallest of the light houses around was out on another island inaccessible by car far out in the sea on Baker Island. These various light houses reminded me of the song, "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning" written by Philip P. Bliss, 1871.



**Brightly beams our Father's mercy  
From His lighthouse evermore,  
But to us he gives the keeping  
Of the lights along the shore.**

**Dark the night of sin has settled,  
Loud the angry billows roar;  
Eager eyes are watching, longing,  
For the lights along the shore.**

**Trim your feeble lam, my brother:  
Some poor sailor tempest tossed,  
Trying now to make the harbor,  
In the darkness may be lost.**

**Let the lower lights be burning!  
Send a gleam across the wave!  
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman  
You may rescue, you may save.**

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## This Week's Q&A

**Q: Why were the lights in the firmament created?**

A: In Genesis 1:14-19, God gives several reasons:

1. To divide day from night.
2. To establish seasons.
3. To compute time, days, and years.
4. To give light upon the earth.

Aside: Though not mentioned in these verses, lights in the firmament also gives directions for navigation. Written records show that navigation using stars as guides goes back to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century BC in Homer's *Odyssey*. Psalms 19 speaks of the firmament showing us knowledge.

The sermon that gets only as far as the ear is like a dinner eaten in a dream.

# *Judge Gently*

Pray, don't find fault with the man that limps,  
Or stumbles along his road,  
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears,  
Or struggled beneath his load.  
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,  
Or the burden he bears placed on your back,  
Might cause you to stumble too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today,  
Unless you have felt the blow,  
That caused his fall or felt the shame  
That only the fallen know.  
You may be strong; but still the blows  
That were his, if dealt to you  
In the selfsame way at the selfsame time,  
Might cause you to stagger too.

Don't be harsh with the man that sins,  
Or pelt him with sword or stone,  
Unless you are sure, yea doubly sure,  
That you have no sins of your own.     -Selected

If every member of the church were just like me, what kind of church would this church be?

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Church of Christ  
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Mail me to  
someone  
who might  
read me!