

NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Serving the Lord for His Glory Matthew 5:14-16

I. THE EQUATION BEGINS: "You ARE the light" (v.14a)

The Foundation: BEING Before DOING

- Not: "Try to become light" or "Work to be light"
- Truth: "You ARE the light" - identity established
- Application: If you're a Christian, the light is already there
- The Question: Will you let it shine or hide it?

The Connection: "Let Your Light SO Shine"

- Greek word: οὕτως (houtos) = "likewise," "in the same manner," "in this way"
- The Link: Just as a lamp naturally shines when placed on a lampstand (v.15)
- LIKEWISE let your light shine through good works (v.16)
- Key Point: It's the natural, expected response - light SHOULD shine!

The Critical Difference: LIGHT Changes Everything

- Non-believers can do good works - they build hospitals, feed hungry, serve others
- But they do it WITHOUT the light - for recognition, tax benefits, guilt relief, social pressure
- Believers have the LIGHT OF CHRIST - this changes our motive and our outcome
- The Light Factor: Same works + Christ's light = God gets the glory instead of us!

II. THE EQUATION COMPONENTS: Light + GOOD Works (v.16a)

A. The Requirement: We MUST Produce GOOD Works

Four Levels of Works:

- 1 NO Works - hiding our light, wasted potential, missed opportunities
- 2 Bad Works - destroy our credibility, contradict our witness
- 3 Mediocre Works - forgettable, no impact, half-hearted service
- 4 GOOD Works - excellent, noticeable, point to God

Key Point: Light without works = hidden light = useless light! Reality Check: God deserves our participation AND our excellence, not our absence or leftovers!

B. The Visibility Factor: "Before Men"

- God sees everything we do (including private works)
- But people only see our public impact
- When people see our good works, THEN they can glorify God
- The Opportunity: Every act of service is a chance for others to see God's grace in us

III. THE EQUATION RESULT: People Glorify God (v.16b)

A. The Proper Target

- Not our glory - "Look what I did!"
- God's glory - "Look what God did through them!"

B. The Human Response

- People see the quality
- People recognize the motivation
- People glorify God (not us)

C. The Beautiful Outcome

- The Process: Light → Good Works → Human Recognition → God's Glory
- The Result: God gets praised because people witness His grace in our lives

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Today's Volunteer Opportunities

The Challenge

- 1 Don't hide your light (NO works = wasted light)
- 2 Don't do bad work (destroys witness)
- 3 Don't do mediocre work (half-hearted service)
- 4 DO excellent work (proper glory to God)

The Opportunity

- Serve excellently - let your good works show God's character
- Serve visibly - let people see God's grace through you
- Serve with the light - do everything "as unto the Lord" (Col. 3:23)
- Serve humbly - let God get the credit