

# *Be Positive*

*1 John 5:18-20*

**1**

**18** We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. **19** We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. **20** And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

I love the reassurance and confidence given to the believer that is seen in this passage. John says...

**2**

*“We KNOW”*

**3**

- A) One born of God does not sin because Christ keeps him
- B) We are of God
- C) The world lies in the power of Satan
- D) Christ has come
- E) He has given understanding

SO

- F) We might know He who is true, Christ
- G) We are in Him

There is a line from the movie *Men in Black* just after Will Smith has been told there are aliens on Earth, Tommy Lee Jones tells him; Fifteen minutes ago you thought man was alone in the universe, what are you going to know tomorrow. The world is changing almost by the minute. The computer you buy today is old technology tomorrow. If you haven't upgraded your cell phone in the last two weeks, it just might be obsolete. As the world moves forward and man learns more and more, the certainty of the knowledge of yesterday is lost in the discoveries of today. What certainty of today will be destroyed by the discoveries of tomorrow. There are few, if any, so-called certainties of this world that can be absolutely counted on. But the certainties that John describes last forever.

Money is made and lost daily, fame lasts only as long as good looks, or talent does. But the power of God that saves man from sin through Christ is eternal. The believer is to put their faith and trust that power of God and is to know, with absolute certainty...

Paul writes in...

**Phil 2:14-16**

**4**

**14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing; **15** so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Paul is talking about the confidence he has in knowing that his efforts in this life have not been in vain. He knew that in the Day of the Lord, when Christ comes again, he would have reason to glory. What an expression of confidence that he gives us an example of.

In this lesson we want to look at some points from Paul's statement here in Philippians.

**5**

- 1) Lights are seen
- 2) Lights are to have be a purpose
- 3) Light is to be used
- 4) Light is to make a statement

Peter says in...

**1 Peter 2:12**

**6**

**12** Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

The things we do and say are readily seen by any who look and listen. What I find interesting is that Paul doesn't say

**7**

***“If they observe you”***

He says...

**8**

***“When”***

If there is one confidence that can held concerning the world, it is that the world sees all. Try as we might, who we are, what we are, will be known to the world. Christ says the same thing in...

**Matt 5:14-16** 9

**14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15** nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

The lives we live constitute the light we give. The world sees our light just as does God.

10 1) Lights are seen

Christ says to let our light shine before men so that they may see our good works. Isn't that what Paul told the Philippians? To keep their behavior excellent among the Gentiles so that they might "Observe" their good deeds?

You see there is both the light of good and the light of evil. Note what Jesus says in...

**Matt 6:22-23** 11

**22** "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. **23** But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

There is light in the world as seen in the actions of men. John tells us, God is light. He is the light of righteousness, love, mercy, and grace. Opposed to His light is Satan who is the light of deception, murder, theft, hatred, vindictiveness, and all that is not of God.

To put this simply by way of explanation, we understand the illustration that contrasts light and darkness. Christ uses this comparison on many occasions...

**John 8:12** 12

**12** Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Christ describes the light as being the righteousness of God in this context, but in Matt. 6 He speaks of the light of our deeds, our lives, that can shine forth as the light of righteousness or as the light of darkness.

So then our next point is...

13 2) Lights are to have a purpose

In both of the passages we looked at in Matt. 5 and 1 Peter 2, the purpose of letting our light shine before men is given.

Jesus says...

**14** **16** Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Peter writes...

**15** **12** they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Christ came to save the world, and brethren, we may be the only Bible some in the world may ever see. What do they see when they look at us? Do they see the light of truth shining in our obedient faith? Do they see the Love of God manifested in our love for each other and for our neighbor? Do they see patience, mercy, grace, kindness, compassion? Or do they see the light of the darkness of Satan in our disobedience, dishonesty, immorality? The light of God shining in us will be seen and possibly, just maybe, someone who sees it might decide to come to God through Christ and thus be able to glorify Him in that day when Christ comes to gather his faithful. That is the purpose of the light of God, the light of Christ, the light of the Spirit shining in our lives.

**16** 3) Light is to be used

We are to let our light shine, that is a responsibility given by Christ to all who would be disciples.

*Eph 2:8-10*

**17**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Paul emphasizes the very point we are making...

**18** **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Christ came to save man from his sin and He did just that. When we respond to His love by coming to God in faithful obedience He washes us of the guilt of our sin through the blood of Christ and creates for Himself a child, an heir to eternal life, so that our lives could be lives of good works. The light of God is to be used for His glory.

The second point Paul makes is that while the good deeds of the light of God are required for all who claim to be Christian, we don't receive the blessings of God's grace, mercy, or salvation

based on the merit of our works. We cannot earn salvation; we can only, through the lives we live, put ourselves into a position to receive His grace and mercy.

*Titus 2:6-8*

**19**

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; 7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, 8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

Paul, in his letter to Titus, tells him to show himself to be an example of good deeds. He then qualifies that statement by saying that those good deeds must be done purity of doctrine. That means that whatever deeds we do must be in accordance with the Law of God. An interesting point is found in Paul's statement that...

**20**

8 the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

In context, I think this is talking about those of the world that are opposed to the truth. In the specific Paul was probably talking about the Judaizing teachers, but I can also see in this Satan as the opponent who will not be able to claim us because of our sin. Therein is our last point...

**21**

4) Light is to make a statement

*Job 1:7-8*

**22**

7 The Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 8 The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

When God asked Satan where he had been, he said he had been on the Earth just wandering around, so then God asked Satan if he had noticed Job and the statement that Job was making with his life, shining forth his blamelessness and uprightness. That was job's statement. That was what Paul said to Titus, make a statement of faithful obedience in your life so that none will have anything to say.

That is what Peter said in 1 Peter 2, let the world observe your good works, make a statement of faithful obedience. And that is what Christ said in Matt., let your light so shine that the world will see your faithful obedience and because of you faith someone else might come to God and be saved.

What kind of statement do we make with our lives? What does the world see, when it looks at us? Remember, this is not what we see, or perceive of ourselves, but rather it is the true measurement of who we are based on the standard of God's truth. God wants our statements to be the reflection of the light of His truth, faithful obedience. God wants all to be saved and calls all to come to Him through Jesus Christ.