

A LIFE BEFITTING THE GOSPEL

By Keith Greer

If I had only one message to convey to God's children it would be this: We must **-be an example and influence for good to those outside of Christ**. The greatest teaching tool is "the faithful Christian's life"!

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." {Matthew 5:13-16} We are God's "lights" in this world of darkness. If our light is not "glowing", how can we lead the lost out?

"That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain." {Philippians 2:15,16}

How does one make sure that his "light" will continue to shine? Did God give us a formula to follow that will keep our "batteries" always charged? Can I protect my "light" from the devil and his co-workers, who will try and extinguish it?

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." {Romans 12:1,2}

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. "For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. "And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." {1 John 2:15-17} Make no mistake about it, whenever we are not **"different"** from our counterparts in the world, our light grows dim or goes out completely!

Those in the world can't put our "light" out, unless we help them along! No matter how ungodly and disobedient people in the world become, "lights" will always continue to shine! Pray tell, if we allow our "lights" to go out, how will the path to God be seen? God is depending on us to give the world a better course to pursue, path to walk, life to live and a better outcome when life comes to an end here on earth. Yes, God's people offer the lost real hope.

Hear the words of the apostle Paul. "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in

one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, " {Philippians 1:27} Paul said the key was a life "worthy of the gospel" . What kind of life is that?

"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; " {Colossians 1:10} To be sure, no one can have such a life if they do not have the information needed to build one!

Peter tells us to "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." {2 Peter 3:18} The key is **knowledge**! When we correctly apply the truths revealed in God's word, it will help us to be a "light" that is "befitting the gospel of Christ"! The only "lights" that are important in Harrodsburg is yours! Members of this body have an awesome responsibility to allow our **LIGHT** to lead the lost sinner to the cross of Christ. My dear brother, has your light gone out? ***