

## LET YOUR LIGHT BE SEEN IN 2013

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Early Christians followed the teaching of their Lord and “turned the world upside down” for Christ (Acts 17:6). In the Sermon on the Mount, which might be considered an introductory lesson for the coming kingdom or church of Christ, Jesus said, “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 5:14-16).

The teaching and example before us then urges “LET YOUR LIGHT BE SEEN IN 2013.” Biblically we are assured, “for the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (1 Peter 4:17-18).

Let us note ways to do this under the general headings of the work of the church. First, in evangelism we may “let our light be seen in 2013” by teaching the lost. A variety of approaches to this vital area of service to the Master incorporate every member of the church into the effort. Inviting a guest to the services, handing out a tract on a Bible subject, engaging a person in conversation about salvation, setting up a formal Bible study, writing a loved one or acquaintance a letter enclosing an interesting Bible tract or engaging Bible subject in the body of the letter, texting or using the social media to introduce your desire to spread the good news of the gospel are all convenient ways to participate in “letting your light be seen in 2013” in connection with evangelism.

Second, in edification or building up the body of Christ we may “let our light be seen in 2013” by strengthening our congregational Bible study efforts such as Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible classes. Three ways are presented: our own faithful attendance at these gatherings, preparing for the classes ourselves by reading the text and doing the background study for the assigned study from week to week, and encouraging an absentee with a cheerful call soliciting their continuing participation in the Bible class.

Third, in benevolence we may “let our light be seen in 2013” by keeping our eyes and ears open to physical needs among our neighbors for food, clothing, and shelter within our community. When the needs are ongoing, for example due to unemployment or illness, we may present the need as an item for discussion in the monthly mens’ meeting to the chairman for discussion. It will be reviewed and submitted as new business and followed up on in subsequent meetings as old business until the need is met. Certainly, we may not be able to satisfy the sum total of a family’s financial needs, but we should be able to do something that will show genuine care and concern for our own members and neighbors. The Word of God says, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

So, “let your light be seen in 2013.”