119 MINISTRIES

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This Little Light of Mine

Do you want to let your light shine?

Do you hide your light?

What an absurd question, right? None of us wants to hide our light.

There is even a popular Sunday school song devoted to teaching us to not hide our light; that we are to let it shine. Now that we have that song stuck in your head, let's reveal what many may not understand about metaphorically defining the light.

To start, this a teaching right out of the mouth of our Messiah.

Matthew 5:14-16

> 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 shine** before men, that they may **see** your **good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

So, what is 'the light'?

As a clue, Jesus, His Hebrew name being Yeshua, equates our light to others as our observable good works.

So we are to understand by this that our light is seen by others, and that is something that we do. And because of our good works (the light), the Father is glorified.

What is our light? And, where do we find this light? How is the Father glorified?

Why does Yeshua find it completely acceptable to use this term as though His audience already knows

what it means?

He makes the assumption that we have read the front of the Bible to define light. When Yeshua spoke these words, there was no New Testament yet. The metaphorical usage had to come from the Old Testament for the audience to understand the meaning.

As it turns out, Yeshua was using Biblical terms in Biblically defined ways.

This is good, because what we should really want to know is this:

How can we 'do light' and not hide it?

Let's read some verses out of the part of the Bible about light that the audience of Chapter 5 would have been intimately familiar with …

Proverbs 6:23

> For the commandment is a lamp, **and the law (Torah) a light**; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,

Isaiah 8:20

> **To the law (Torah)** and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to **this word** it is because there is **no light** in them.

Isaiah 51:4

> "Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For **law (Torah)** will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a **light** of the peoples.

Psalm 119:105

> Your **word** is a lamp to my feet And a **light** to my path.

There are many verses we can use to prove that the Law of God is the light our Messiah was referring to, but as we all know, 2-3 witnesses establishes a matter. In Hebrew, the word for law is Torah, and it was the Torah that Yeshua was metaphorically referring to as light.

According to Yeshua's teaching in Matthew 5 and the Biblical definition of light, in order to let our light shine before all men, we are to practice the same light as it was given to us.

Doing the Law of God, or Torah, as a believer in the faith produces observable good works for others to see, and then others will be drawn to that light. In that way, as Yeshua said, it glorifies our Father when we live out our faith when we do His Torah.

We should also consider that Yeshua is the Light of the world:

John 8:12

> "I am the **light of the world** He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the **light of life**."

So, is "light" redefined? Was the light previously the Torah found in the Word, and now the light is Yeshua?

Not at all.

We must remember, Yeshua is the Word in the flesh:

John 1:14

> And **the word became truth** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

So if Jesus, Yeshua, is the Word in the flesh, then this is precisely why he also has to be the light according to the front of the Bible:

Proverbs 6:23

> For the commandment is a lamp, And the **law a light**; Reproofs of instruction are the **way of life**, *(Emphasis added.)*

Light of life, just like what we read Yeshua is, in John 8:12

Psalm 119:105

> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

The Word, which includes all of the Law of God, is the light.

We cannot ignore that the Law of God and the Messiah are the same thing.

This is because the Messiah is the perfect example in the flesh of the Law of God.

As a result, He is also the perfect, observable light.

Yeshua practiced the light perfectly, and He is asking us to practice the same light that He was.

We should do it, not hide it.

We certainly will not ever be a perfect light, like Yeshua is, in our current corruptible state, but we are to try our best. Where we fail, grace covers us.

But just because we are covered by grace (Romans 6:1), it does not mean that we should not try to practice the law of God. In fact, breaking the law of God is sin (1 John 3:4).

Certainly everyone agrees that we should not sin. That is darkness. We are to walk the Law of God, and that is light.

If we agree with our Messiah that we should not hide our light, and we agree with the Bible on how it defines light as the Law of God as written by Moses, then that answers a very important question for us.

It answers how we might be hiding our light...

The answer … sadly, we hide the light by not “doing” the light.

The Bible has already defined for us what the light is; it is the law of God as written by Moses, the Torah. We have no excuse for not ‘doing the light’. If we are not doing the light, then we are hiding it.

Our Savior even practiced that light perfectly, and then said He was the light, and told us to ‘walk the same light’ that He practiced.

Again, this is the Law of God as written by Moses.

So when we hide, or not 'do' the light, we are in effect hiding Christ, the light, from others. We are hiding the very same Word that Christ is, in the flesh.

We are hiding the way of life, we are hiding the truth, and we are hiding the light. These are all terms used to describe the Law of God as written by Moses and also Yeshua, our Messiah.

Obviously the nations cannot see the Word if we refuse to do it. The light is then hidden from them …and if we only do some of the Word, then the light is not as effective as it is intended to be.

This was obviously a concern of Yeshua because, just after He warned us in that we are to not hide our light, He then tells us that He did not come to abolish the light.

He then continues to tell us that, whoever does not fully teach the law of God is hiding their light, and will be least in the kingdom.

Matthew 5:17-19

> "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Yeshua tells us that He did not come to change or abolish the light that has already been Biblically established. He then tells us that He came to simply walk or fulfill the exact same light.

He then tells what happens to those who choose to teach some of the law has passed away. He tells us very simply what happens to believers that hide their light. Those that decided to hide their light become least in the Kingdom in the end. Those that let their light shine become great in the Kingdom. This must be a rather big deal, to have a whole rewards system for believers built on it.

Apparently the Light, or Law of God, remains as the exact same light at least until ALL the Law and Prophets are fulfilled, when Heaven and Earth passes away. It should go without saying, but Heaven and Earth has not passed away, and thus, all the Law and Prophets are not fulfilled. Which means, according to Matthew 5, all of God's law is still the same Light that we are supposed to do as observable good works for all men to see.

So, what started off as a seemingly absurd question, "Do You Hide Your Light?" now might have a practical impact that you may have never considered.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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