

## Shine – 3

### Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.”

We are called to be light to a world that desperately needs a relationship with God

- Light has some interesting properties and characteristics
- Light always affects and changes the environment it is released into
- When light stands next to darkness, light always wins!

### Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- We have been promised light and we have been empowered to make a stand against darkness

We cannot deny we live in dark times

### No Slide: 2 Timothy 3:1–3; 4:1-4 (NLT)

- Immorality, Cultural decadence, Infanticide, Racism
- Pornography, Unbridled consumerism, Voyeurism, Materialism, Terror, Jealousy
- Spiritual apathy, False prophets, Watered down preaching
- Hypocrisy, Moral relativism, Discord, Division strife
- Intolerance and unbelief

If we are going to “Fully Shine” we need to draw close to God

- The lamp of God has yet to go out!

### 1 Samuel 3:1–3 (NLT) Eli and his wicked sons

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days’ messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.<sup>2</sup> One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed.<sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle\* near the Ark of God.

- The light is still shining
- Christ is still on the throne
- His word will not come back void!
- His Spirit is still moving
- His name makes demons tremble
- Sickness shrivel up
- Provokes the devil to flee!
- Fan the flame! – 2 Timothy 1:6

Let us boldly declare!

- Darkness will not overcome light
- Darkness cannot penetrate light
- Light will always overtake darkness
- In Jesus name!

### James 4:7–8 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

## The Law of Reflection

Heron of Alexandria (mathematician) – Contemporary of Jesus  
*“the direction of incoming light (incident ray) and the direction of the outgoing light reflected (the reflected ray) make the same angle.”*

- Change the angle of the incoming light, and the reflected ray becomes its twin
- How can we as children of light become a more consistent reflection of the light of God?
- What are the “incident rays” falling into our lives, and how will we reflect them?

**Narcissus** in Greek mythology liked what he saw so much he was condemned to view his handsome image forever

- Recent survey says the average woman spends 55 minutes a day in front of the mirror
- Mirrors have always been associated with the soul
- Presumably we are looking at our “second self”
- Superstition – a shattered mirror brings seven years of bad luck
- The evil queen looks into a mirror that reflects her egotistical, invidious soul
- Some cultures cover mirrors when someone dies, believing a mirror can trap the soul of the dead person
- Fabled vampires and witches cannot see themselves because they have no souls

As people of light we are called to mirror the *light of the world*

- Mirrors can only reveal so much
- We are living mirrors
- Enabling us to allow God's light to reveal deep truths about **our own heart** and those of others

The truth is many of us are like a “house of mirrors”

- The reflection of Christ is distorted and twisted
- Nearly everyone sees themselves differently than others do
- So many are plagued by an image of inadequacy
- We feel ugly, old, fat or blemished by our inability to meet some social expectation
- The way we see ourselves is the way we treat others

Many of us have allowed circumstances and others to convince us that we just don't measure up

- We see ourselves as complete failures
- We feel guilty about the past
- Sometimes stuck in spiritual and emotional neutral
- Drifting along

The way we see ourselves directly affects the way we see others

**Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> For as he (*a man*) thinks in his heart, so is he.

**Proverbs 23:7 (The Message)**

**He'll be as stingy with you as he is with himself; he'll say, “Eat! Drink!” but won't mean a word of it.**

God's word is like a mirror which reveals who we truly are so we can reach out to those who desperately need Him

**Psalm 51:10, 12-13 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God. renew a loyal spirit within me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you.

The problem is many of us look at God's word and forget who we are

**James 1:22–25 (NLT)**

<sup>22</sup> But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

The “*normal line*” of a ray of light is the perpendicular line from which we measure the angles of two rays of light

- Don't allow the “normal line” of complacency to be your normal
- We must strive to let our lights shine to the fullest
- Allow the fullness of the light of Christ to be our “new normal” and SHINE!

We emit what we absorb – You are what you tolerate!

Gustav Kirchhoff – 19<sup>th</sup> century scientist

– “radiative transfer law”

*“the ability of an object to absorb radiation is also related to its ability to emit radiation.”*

- Basically, we emit what we absorb, minus what we retain

As people of light we must work daily to improve our ability to reflect the light, love and life that come from God

The key to emitting the light of God is eliminating the focus on ourselves

**John 3:30 (NLT)**

<sup>30</sup> He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

- We live in a “ME” society
- The first word we learn is “Mine”
- We really are our own god
- No wonder the first commandment is...  
“you must not have any other God but me” – **Exodus 20:3**

We are more than mirrors!

We must not only reflect the light but absorb the light

*“Too often people learn the language of faith, even the traditions, but they are not fully absorbing and synthesizing the power of light.”* – Samuel Rodriguez

As followers of Christ we must learn to absorb all the light God has for us so we can

- Reflect some
- Retain some
- Emit some

Science has a term for something that only absorbs light without reflecting

- “perfect blackbody”

**Luke 12:48 (NKJV)**

<sup>48</sup> But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

- What am I doing with what I know?
- We are not meant to be pew warmers!
- Am I giving life or sucking life?
- We are born to be “rivers of life” and conduits of light and life
- We are born to absorb and then reflect God’s light!

**Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup> Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

We are all familiar with a solar eclipse

- The moon partially or *fully* blocks (*occults*) the sun
- Eclipse meaning – “to obscure anything”

Have you fallen victim of a “spiritual eclipse”?

The dark forces of this world can eclipse the light of God from our lives

Sin can be the “dark body” that moves across the sky of our lives

- It can grow imperceptibly
- We can find ourselves in the shadows of death
- Far from God

**John 3:19 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

- We all have some measure of the light of God in us
- It shines to expose evil in our hearts and turn us to the light
- We can either respond to the light or remain in darkness
- Just as light produces more light darkness produces more darkness
- We emit the light of God when we are near Him
- We lose that ability when we are far from Him
- Darkness produces darkness

A “Black Hole” in space has such a strong gravitational pull it is said it can deform the space-time continuum

- “Spiritual Darkness” will similarly deform your life



It is important that we surround ourselves with people of light if we are going to increase our ability to “Shine”

### 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT)

<sup>33</sup> “bad company corrupts good character.”

- When darkness is falling on us chose to not absorb it
- Replace it with God’s restorative light
- Absorb the blessings and goodness that comes from light
- And then emit that light of life and grace to all around us

Am I a flashlight or a lamp?

### Acts 13:47 (NKJV)

<sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, *That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.*’ ”

- Flashlights shine for a moment – until they run out of batteries
- They are activated or turned on by a touch
- A lamp produces constant light because its, “plugged in”
  - Its connected to the source
- Be a lamp
- Stay connected to Christ
- As long as the source produces power your lamp will shine!

### Psalms 56:13 (NLT)

13 For you have rescued me from death; you have kept my feet from slipping. So now I can walk in your presence, O God, in your life-giving light.

Science tells us that “the amount of thermal radiation emitted by an object depends on its internal temperature, area, and characteristics.”

- How can we increase our spiritual, “surface temperature”?
- Our “area and characteristics”

### 1 Timothy 4:8 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> “Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”

- Even as physical exercise produces heat so spiritual exercise produces spiritual heat

*When scientists create nuclear fusion they use completely impermeable materials to shut out all objects and ensure that fusion will occur and produce power*

- Fusion – “the act or process of fusing or melting together”
- We must have a time each day to “shut out” the distractions of life and have “fusion” with the Spirit of God
- Just as daily exercise produces a healthy body
  - Produces serotonin and dopamine, improving our mental state
- Spiritual exercise produces a healthy spiritual body

### Ephesians 6:11–12 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all **strategies** of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we\* are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

In addition to daily spiritual activities we need to eliminate those things from our lives that bring our spiritual temperature down

Just as a bad diet of junk food and lack of exercise will promote poor health, allowing circumstances or others to limit what we believe or what we can do will keep us in a lifestyle that is less than God's best for us!

- Don't allow the words of others hamper what you know to be true
- Eliminate negative words we speak about ourselves
- Eliminate destructive relationships
- Eliminate habits that you know prevent you from your destiny
- Stop taking the easy way

All of these things affect your “internal temperature” hindering our ability to shine in the lives of others

Max Planck – “*3200 Kelvin*” – identified the optimal temperature for a light bulb to reach maximum efficiency

What is your maximal efficient temperature?

- Strive to increase your internal heat
- Eliminate cooling distractions
- Glow with the light of God

**Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)**

<sup>20</sup>Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.