

Christine Ku

Julianna Vogel

Communications

09 October 2011

Word Count: 314

### **Meditation Commentary on Let Your Light Shine**

*“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a 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*

As followers of Christ, we have been entrusted with the task of lighting the world with His love and truth, both individually as well as corporately. However, in Matthew 6:23, Jesus warns His disciples that “...if...the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness” (*Holy Bible*). This passage implies what man may assume to be light can actually be darkness.

But what is darkness? Dictionary.com defines this term as being merely “the absence...of light.” When reinserted into the context of Matthew 6:23, then, the light that is equated to darkness in the passage above is simply artificially induced light that is apart from Christ. An analogy from the physical world that illustrates this concept can be found in the comparison between a glow stick and a lightbulb.

Glow sticks are plastic tubes containing special chemicals which emit light for a short period of time when mixed together. The chemicals contained within these temporary sources of light can be compared to human emotions and passion. Although these feelings can produce an artificial light for short and momentary bursts, it quickly fades and does not withstand the test of time. In contrast, when Thomas Edison invented the electric lightbulb, he did not intend for it to exist as an independent light source, but to be plugged into an electric current which supplied the energy for light. Similarly, God has created humans with all the components necessary for radiating light, but in order to make a lasting impression on the world, Christians must be plugged into His limitless power source. By deriving our light and ability to do good works from Christ and no one else, all the glory and praise we receive automatically belongs to Him. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (*Holy Bible* Matthew 5.16).

### **Works Cited**

"Darkness." *Dictionary.com / Find the Meanings and Definitions of Words at Dictionary.com*.

Web. 09 Oct. 2011. <<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/darkness>>.