

## GOD'S WORD—A LAMP AND LIGHT

### INTRODUCTION

- I. The words “lamp” and “light” are used both literally and figuratively in the Scripture.
  - A. The lampstand of the OT tabernacle literally gave light, and is used figuratively in the book of Revelation.
  - B. The word of God is associated with both “lamp” and “light”, as needed for our “feet” and “pathway” in scripture. Ps.119:105
- II. Now let's note the significance of lamp and light as they relate to our feet and our pathway in life.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, God's word is a LAMP FOR OUR FEET.

- A. One walking in literal darkness needs a lamp or lantern to give light to guide him to see where to put his feet.
  1. We need to be able to SEE “each step we take.”
  2. If we can't SEE where we are walking, as we take “one step at a time”, then we need a lamp or lantern of some kind.
    - a. Each step is important, for it give us a chance to **stop** before going too far in the wrong direction, if we need to turn back.
    - b. If we enter a path that says “one way”, and it is leading to a place of “no return”, one step could easily lead to disaster.
- B. Many times parents need to give light to their children to keep them from taking even a first step in the wrong direction.
  1. Our steps need to be directed by God's word. Jer.10:23; Ps.37:33
  2. Our steps can easily lead us to destruction.
    - a. That first cigarette may call for a second, and finally to complete addiction.
    - b. That first marijuana joint or experiment with heroin may well be last step you will ever take without addiction.
    - c. That first beer may call for a second, as many alcoholics today became such because of that first step, and now cannot quit, and are on their way to eternal destruction.

#### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, God's word is a LIGHT TO OUR PATH.

- A. With a light which serves as a **map**, we will be able to see **forks in the road**, and be able to avoid taking the wrong road.
  1. Eve had a choice and took a step in the wrong road. Gen.3:1-6
  2. Adam, her husband, also came to a fork in the road, and took that first step and brought death into the world. v.6
  3. King David came to a fork in the road, and took steps in the wrong direction and brought grave consequences to himself. 2Sa.11:1-27; 12:1-15; Psa.32:1-5
  4. Many Christians are faithful for awhile, but come to a fork in the

road that offers wealth or pleasure, and they take the wrong road and never get back on the road to heaven. Lk.8:5-15

B. With a light as a map, we are able to foresee some of the **warnings** and **dangers** of which we need to be aware.

1. There may be a lion that may attack us. 1Pe.5:8

2. There may be wild beasts that endanger us. 1Pe.2:2; Jude 10

3. There may be a flood of evil and corruption. Rev.12:15

4. There may be many seducers on the road. 1Ti.4:1; 2Ti.3:13; Rev.2:20

5. There will be many deceivers. Ep.4:14; Tit.1:10; 2Pe.3:17; 2Jn.7

6. There may be storms for which we need to prepare. Isa.4:6; 25:4

7. There may be food that has been poisoned. Mt.16:6,12

8. There are many enemies along the way. Mt.13:39; Ac.13:10; Phil.3:18

C. Then, with the light of God's word we can keep checking and have **confidence and assurance** that we are on the right road, when we see all the "signs" (good or bad) that we were expecting.

1. We see the **advantage** of having a good map, knowing that we are on the right road, and are not misled by looking at the wrong map, and see the **advantage** of being Christians (living right), while seeing many travelers who are obviously confused or don't know where they headed.

2. As well as heeding the warnings and hearing the promises of God, we are able to see the **consequences** in the lives of others who did not choose the right road.

a. We know that kids will be kids and often experiment with evils, but that doesn't justify them in doing so and will all regret having done so.

b. For every young person does take the right road, there are many who do take the wrong road for life, and never return.

1) Look at the alcoholics and drug addicts in the world who began while young when these vices were popular.

2) Look at the young people who have engaged in fornication and have brought illegitimate children into the world who will have many disadvantages in life, and most will likely never come to know God and His church and have hope of heaven.

3. One wrong step leads to a walk and a very undesirable destination.  
Prov. 5:1-6

D. Finally, with the light of God's word we are able to anticipate the **end** of our journey and the **reward** and celebration awaiting us. 1Pe.1:9; 2Ti.4:8; Tit.2:13

1. There may have been many bumps in the road and some detours.

2. But in the "end", it will all have been worthwhile. Ro.8:28

CONCLUSION

- I. Consider the steps you are taking **right now**, where will they lead you—  
to heaven or hell? Mt.7:13,14
  - A. If you have never entered the road to heaven, why not do so now?
  - B. If you have erred from the truth, won't you come back? Js.5:19,20
- II. Take the first step down the isle and complete your obedience, as we stand together and sing the invitation song.