



*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **“Shining As Lights”**

It becomes evident when one reads the Scripture that God intends for His children to have an influence on the world around them. Why else would Jesus affirm ***“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid”*** (Matt. 5:14)? What a tremendous evaluation of the role and worth of a Christian in the service of the Lord. If one gets to feeling sorry for his or her self and begins to think they are meaningless and have nothing to offer, Jesus reminds us that we are “lights.”

It would be easy to just sit back and let the world pass us by, to not want to get involved. It’s easy to reason that we’re so small in number we can’t make much difference. Admittedly the task of changing the world appears monumental, and especially when we look at the picture as one gigantic mountain to climb. Yet we’re reminded that it only takes a little spark to get a large fire going. When we break our task down into smaller increments, we really can make a difference. Jesus wants us to “shine” as lights.

The influence I exercise over another person is very real – whether for good or evil. Through encouragement, kindness, compassion, a loving outreach, one person can draw another to desire a better way of life. In turn that one so influenced can affect the attitudes of others around them. There is an exponential benefit of just one person shining as a light in the world.

We need to recognize that Jesus can use us to bring light, hope, salvation into the lives of people with whom we are associated. We’re not the source of the light, merely a reflection of His light, as we allow that light to change our lives. Thus Paul charges Christians, ***“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain”*** (Philippians 2:14-16). Instead of causing others to look on Christianity with contempt, Christians are to be **blameless, harmless, without rebuke.**

This summer the church at Broad Street has focused on ***“Shining As Lights In Our City”*** with a personalized question for each one of us: ***“Where Do I Fit In?”*** We’ve looked at our roles in the home as well as the church. Just where do I fit in to making my family a Christian family and a positive influence on our community? Just where do I fit in within the work of the church: Through Bible Study, Benevolence, Use of Talents, Second Mile Service, Brotherly Love, Soul Winning, Worship, Youth Outreach, Fellowship, Prayer? These were the areas we studied the past 12 weeks. May we all make the resolve to ***“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”*** (Matt. 5:16).

**. . . . Terry Broome**