

know that their Master was a living King and Saviour, and whatever might be the path before them the Lord Jesus would be their guide and stay.

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WE need to have this truth ever before our minds in the latter part of this 19th century. Our Lord is a risen, living, powerful One, who knows all the needs, struggles, and temptations of His people, and yet can make and does make them more than conquerors. May the readers of PARISH AND HOME have His presence and power with them, following Him, and hearkening to the admonition of the apostle. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above not on things on the earth."

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OUR Lord called His followers "the light of the world." The architect who puts up a building is careful to plan for light. Perhaps proper lighting is the most important question to consider. God, the architect of this world, planned for light to come in. He provided windows through which spiritual truth should shine. These windows, through which God's light reaches the world, are men and women. They are the means that God Himself has chosen for proclaiming His truth to the world—and the only means by which His Gospel can be proclaimed is by the human beings whom He has called to do it. Thus, in a very strong and real sense, Christians are the light of the world. Not by letters of fire flaming in the heavens, but by the voice and example of humble men and women does God's sublime message reach the world.

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WHEN God calls us the "light of the world" it is implied that the world is dark. Do we need to be told this? Sin, misery, suffering, are on every side, yet if we choose a selfish path we may keep out of sight of much that will wring our hearts. A queen of France, when told that the people were crying for bread, said, naively: "If they can-

not get bread, why do not the poor people take meat or cakes?" The queen, in her luxury, had not realized that for the poor the alternative of bread was—nothing. Now, in our midst there are many who do not in the least realize what the crying wants of those about them are. They never enter any but the homes of the well-to-do; they never get close to the lives of those who need their sympathy and help; they do not realize that the world is a dark place that needs pure wholesome light.

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BUT, if we are doing our Lord's work *we are shining in the dark places*. It is folly to light a candle and let it burn in the glaring sunlight. We must carry it to the place where it is needed. God holds us responsible for doing this. Those who need us make for the most part only a mute appeal. It must be the voice from within rather than the voice from without that calls us to the dark spots. We must search out our spheres of work. Many settle down into luxury, ease, and content in doing nothing because no one compels them to labor in the Christian field. God does not compel us. He does not drive, but leads us, and He expects His children to hear His voice and to follow.

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NOTICE how direct the Lord's statement is, "Ye" are the light of the world—everyone who heard His voice. So is it now. The call is to all who hear. It is not only the minister who is "the light of the world," or the parish visitor, or the lay evangelist, but all who are willing to obey God's call. And notice, too, that our Lord says the light of "the world"—not of the home only, nor of the parish, nor of the city, nor of the whole nation; but of the world. We heard a Christian teacher recently tell how his voice had, as it were, gone around the world. One of his former pupils was in China, another in Japan, another in South America, another in England; many were in different parts of Canada. Each of us is in contact with those who will carry far and wide the influences

that we communicate. To John Wesley the world was his parish; to the Christian the whole world is the sphere in which he is to shine.

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ONE of the main functions of light is to show the way. Above every other duty of the Christian is that of showing the way *by walking in it*. Some only are called to preach, or to travel far, or to do great things before the world in the Lord's cause. All are called upon to shine. The thing that tells most upon the world is the daily example of Christian living, self-control, good temper, unselfishness, watchful care for the wishes and feelings of others. *Talking* is a feeble way of moving men; acting out our views of Christian duty is something that everyone can understand.

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MEN of science tell us that all the light that comes from the burning wood and coal is only the stored-up light of the sun. When our Lord said to His followers "Ye are the light of the world," no doubt He had in His mind that other truth which He taught, "I am the light of the world." The light that comes from the coal is only the stored-up light of the sun; the light that the individual gives is only the reflected light of the Lord Jesus.

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A WORKING church is not a church where a few do a great deal of work, but where each one does a little, and thus the whole a large amount of work. The honey bee flies back and forth from flowers to hive all the season, yet gathers only a little spoonful of honey; and yet, when we come to take the honey from the hive we get fifty or sixty pounds. The explanation of so much honey where one bee gathers so little, is the number of bees. If the bee reasoned as some people do, it would say: "I can do so very little, it is not worth while for me to try." But not so. The drone in the hive is the exception, and they are soon expelled and starve to death. Just where the bees make a crowning success, the Church often makes a failure. Despire not the day of small things.—*Selected*.