

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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*Buchan Ness, Boddam, Scotland
Photo by Wayne Combee*

Light Makes A Difference

We were cleaning out a drawer the other day and came across a stack of papers from 2007 that had missed our detailed filing system. We carefully preserve anything that we may need in the future. But here were these papers. In this stack of papers was an article I had written – a most unusual article – far from my norm. It seemed obvious that the wind of the Spirit had blown across my heart in extraordinary measure as I wrote that article. It reminded me of how precious the Holy Spirit is to us and stirred my spirit in deep gratitude.

When you preach or teach the Word of God, you often say things that are beyond your normal phraseology. It makes you seem very smart, but actually the credit goes exclusively to the Spirit of God. As God works in us “to will and to do His good pleasure,”¹ the Holy Spirit speaks through us. The Apostle Paul emphasized this in First Corinthians 2:4 saying: “And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” It is our heart’s desire to always speak by unction of the Spirit of God. This must also be the desire of every believer. All of us have a message – a personal testimony – that reveals the work of God in us. It brings God glory when we share this with others.

In the great commission, Jesus said, “GO ye

therefore and teach all nations.” Some may say, “But, I’m not going anywhere.” Yet you are. There is a section of the world where your voice is heard. From the grocery store to the beauty shop, you can declare the greatness of God. And equally as important, in these places your walk with God will be observed.

The life of every Christian must reflect the Word of God and represent the great king of glory, our Lord Jesus Christ. As we speak, our vocabulary must be without cursing, complaining, and corruption. The

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

world generates words that we do not embrace. Day by day, our actions reveal God’s kindness and benevolence. Because of God’s great love in us, we choose to help people. Truly, God is seen in all we say and do. We are His light in the world.

Several years ago, Wayne and I climbed to the top of an enormous lighthouse in Scotland. We also visited the lighthouse museum where we saw a variety of immense lights used to pierce the darkness on the oceans. These lights guide men safely into the harbor. You and I are God’s beacons. As we shine “in the midst of a crooked and perverse”² world, we lead men and women to the harbor of God’s love. We make a difference when we walk in God’s light. Light always

makes a difference.

As a child we sang, "This little light o' mine / I'm gonna let it shine."³ In Scotland they sing, "Shine, Jesus shine / Fill this land with the Father's glory."⁴ These are very good words from two gifted writers. They remind us of our responsibility to reflect God's image to the world. Every day, let's sing of Jesus,

speaking His word, and act like "real Christians." The world needs our Jesus.

Becky Combee

¹ Philippians 2:13

by Harry Dixon Loes, about 1920

² Philippians 2:15

³ "This Little Light Of Mine"

⁴ "Shine, Jesus shine" by Graham Kendrick, 1987

Set An Example

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. (Philippians 4:5)

MODERATION

The word "moderation" as translated in the original Greek means "appropriate, mild, gentle, patient". From Thayer's Greek Definitions we can include "suitable, equitable, fair, gentle". It speaks specifically to our behavior. Moderation should be seen in our dress, our speech, our reactions, even in how we spend our money. Acting moderately should be an every day occurrence, as involuntary as breathing.

In the book of James we read, "*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*" (James 3:17) The word "gentle" used here is the same Greek word translated "moderation" in Philippians 4:5.

Godly wisdom requires us to constantly watch our behavior. I have told my daughter again and again, "If you can't do it in front of me, then you can't do it in private." Our actions should not embarrass us. What we do in secret should reflect who we are in the open. We should live, as it says in 1 Timothy 5:14, above reproach, without anything to hide.

This same thought works in reverse. If godly wisdom is moderate, then ungodly wisdom is not. Try reading the verse from James in reverse. That really changes things!

BE KNOWN

We are told in the New Testament that God sees our secrets. (Matt. 6:4, 6, 18; Psalms 44:21) Just look at what happened to King David. In 2 Samuel, after David had killed Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, in order to obtain her for himself, God admonished him. "*For*

thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." (2 Samuel 2:12)

Just 2 verses later, He tells him why. "*Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme...*" (2 Samuel 2:14)

David's actions gave those who were against him a reason to scorn him. It affected his reputation as a king and God's reputation on his behalf.

There is a great passage of scripture to this effect in the second chapter of Titus. Over the period of several verses, instructions are given as to the behavior of men and women of all ages within the church. And underneath each instruction, the Apostle Paul continually repeats the cost of immoderate behavior.

...that the word of God be not blasphemed. v5

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works... v6

Always set a good example for others... v7 CEV

Use clean language that no one can criticize. Do this, and your enemies will be too ashamed to say anything against you. v8 CEV

...so as to bring credit to the teaching about God our Savior in all they do. v10 GNB

Make sure you earn everyone's respect. v15 CEV

When we live our lives in moderation, we will find great freedom. People should know we have nothing to hide. We will also find wisdom and earn respect, both that of men towards us and of men towards God, through our example. "*Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*" (1 Timothy 4:2 NKJV)

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