

"HEAR YE HIM"

A Devotional Series For Radio

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The Sermon: A LIGHT THAT CAN NEVER BE DARKENED

Scripture: Book of Mormon, Moroni 7:14-18.

For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge; for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; Wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil. And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye should judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge, ye shall also be judged. Wherefore, search diligently with the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil.

He is the light and the life of the world; yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened.

In the days of the old fashioned kerosene lamp, the gas jet, and the primitive carbon filament incandescent bulb with its yellow light, it was not at all unusual to see a careful shopper out on the sidewalk in front of a store, examining some piece of merchandise in daylight. Only in the light of the sun could one judge and be sure of the quality and color of the clothing or fabric he was buying. Only in sunlight could one be sure of the quality of a diamond or other precious stone. Therefore the reputable merchant often invited his customers to take the merchandise to the light where it could be clearly seen and fairly judged.

The sense of touch can be developed to the point where it will tell us many things, but none of us would want to buy a dress or a hat or a suit of clothes by the sense of touch alone. There are some things which touch could never tell you about the quality and color of fabrics. There are some things which light and sight alone can reveal. People without sight can develop a remarkable facility in finding their way even through busy streets by means of the sense of touch and perhaps the sense of hearing, but no one would choose that way of life in preference to having our sight so that light may reveal to us the beauty, the utility, and the quality of the things about us, and enable us to make our choices wisely and well.

It is always the nature and mission

of light to reveal, to make manifest, to enable men to see, to know, to evaluate, and then to choose and judge. Although we all appreciate to some degree the beauty of light and its many colors, yet light does not exist primarily to call attention to its own beauty, but to reveal other things by its light. We do not set a lighthouse on a dangerous rocky reef in order that men may see and admire the beautiful light from afar off, but that they may know where the reef is and steer their ships in a safe channel. We do not set a candle on a candlestick primarily in order to see the candle, however beautiful it may be, but that by its light men may see all that is in the house and be enabled to judge, to weigh and evaluate, and to choose.

Our Book of Mormon text, and many others from the Bible, refer to Jesus as the light of the world. "He is the light and the life of the world; yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened." There is in the life and character of Jesus a certain unsurpassed beauty which all men may admire. Nevertheless, Jesus did not come primarily in order that men might exclaim "How beautiful." but they might say, "I see." He is the perfect life, the perfect example. He is the revelation of all that man may become at his best. He is the light that enlightens every man that cometh into the world. He is the lighthouse that marks the channel to God, that warns of forbidden ways and hidden dangers. He is the

candle set upon a candlestick to give light unto all that are in the house of this world. When we bring the fabric of our lives to him and to his light to judge its quality, it is the light of his perfection which enables us to see ourselves as we are. When we are considering any action, and trying to choose between good and evil, it is the light of his example which enables us to see clearly, to judge wisely, and to choose righteously.

Although the light of Christ enlightens every man who comes into the world, all men do not judge or choose in that light. Some turn from it, because they know that their deeds are evil, and they do not want to have them revealed as evil. The light of Christ has already shown to their conscience, to the inner man, that the thing they would like to choose is not the sort of deed that would bear the scrutiny of Christ's light. Because they fear to have their deeds revealed and reproved, they hate the light; they turn their backs upon it and travel farther and farther into darkness where it becomes increasingly difficult for them to discern the difference between good and evil.

A good test of any action, then,-- a test to determine whether it is right or wrong -- good and bad, is the test of whether it invites and urges you to come closer to Christ and to his light, or whether it encourages you to hate and shun him. If you are undecided about any act, try this test. Could you perform the act in question if you were in Jesus' presence? If you had already performed the act, could you come freely and comfortably into his presence and examine the deed in question by his light, or would you want to hide from him, to get as far away from him as you could? The same test could be applied to sins of omission. Could you fail in your duty if you were in his presence? If our own hearts condemn us when we see ourselves in the light of Jesus, we need to judge ourselves, to repent, and to adjust our lives according to the revelation of perfection we find in the light of Christ.

Remember when applying this test that the light of Jesus reveals thoughts and hidden motives as well as outward acts. Good acts may be done through wrong or sinful motives, and may thereby become evil. Jesus sees and knows the motivation behind each act. His light pierces through all sham and show and hypocrisy and pretense. It is not possible in the light of his presence to appear to be one

thing while in reality being another. His light is all-revealing. It penetrates all our alibis, all our ready excuses, all our attempts to gloss over or to disguise sin.

Jesus is a light that is endless, a light that can never be darkened. If we hope for a day when that light shall grow dim or fade away enough to make our sins less noticeable or more palatable, we are doomed to eternal disappointment, for his light is eternal as he is eternal. It will always shine in judgment upon the deeds of men, both in time and in eternity. If in this life we choose to live in darkness of sin when we might have chosen to live in his light, there will never be a time when we can dare to come into the presence of Christ and view those sins in his light. He is eternal; his light is eternal and can never be darkened; and the judgments we shall be forced to make of our own deeds when we stand in the light before his throne of judgment will be eternal and irrevocable.

Light is positive and creative. It is a creation of God. It is an eternal attribute of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ. It is a free gift of God which any man may have if he will only accept it and follow after it. The light of God produces and accompanies life, joy, happiness, and peace. All physical and spiritual life depends upon it.

Darkness is negative, not positive. Any fool may make it by turning his back to the light and standing in his own shadow, for darkness is simply the absence of light. Darkness always brings fear, uncertainty, worry, and despair. Think of how you would feel if you were lost deep in a mine or cave without light, around you only the thick darkness filled with dangers both real and imaginary! The terror and despair you would feel there would be as nothing to the terror and despair that you would know if you were forever shut out from the light of God's presence because during the time of probation in the flesh you would not judge your deeds by the light of Jesus Christ -- the light and life that is endless, and that can never be darkened.

Let your light shine before men. Hold up the light of Christ, that it may be reflected in your life, that men may be drawn through you to the Christ who is the light and the life of the world-- a light that is endless, that can never be darkened.