

Why Believers Must Vote: Part 3: Because we are to be “the Light.”

Jesus proclaims that He is the light of the world, (**John 8:12**); then to our great amazement, He proclaims that those who believe in Him are also the light of the world! That is because His life & ways shine through those yielded vessels. They are the ones who don't keep their beliefs hidden. They are the ones who bear the fruit of His life. Their belief is known by their words *and by their actions*.

“14. *YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.*

A city laid out on a mountain is not able to be hidden:

15. *and they do not light a lamp and place it under a peck measure but upon the lamp stand, and it gives light for all those in the house.”*
16. *Your light must now shine like this before all mankind so they would see your good deeds and they would glorify your Father...”*

Matthew 5:14-16, One New Man Bible

“14. *Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop?*

15. *And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place?
Instead, it's placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light.*
16. *So don't hide your light. Let it shine brightly before others,
SO THAT THE COMMENDABLE THINGS YOU DO WILL SHINE AS LIGHT UPON THEM,
and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:14-16 The Passion Translation

What shines is our “good deeds”, “the commendable things that we do.” The One New Man Bible gives a great footnote explanation of the Hebrew word “mitzvah” which is often translated as “good deeds” or “good works,” making clear that our salvation is not the result of our works, but it is the cause of our works. Our joy for His translating us from darkness to light triggers within an appreciable desire to do our part for the transformation of our families, friends, neighbors, communities, state, country, and the world.

Indeed, all creation is groaning for these agents of His life to deliver them from the death of the kingdom of darkness in all of its horrid forms, just as we await the resurrection of our bodies, (**Romans 8:19-23**).

We have a vision; a destiny; and a mission to make a difference in many various ways for the kingdom of light. Voting is a very simple, yet significant way to effect positive change. We are to bloom where He has planted us. Voting may be inconvenient & unpleasant for some, but it is more important than it is to set the trash out or to flush & clean the toilet. We don't ignore the trash or the toilet because to do so would have an immediate effect upon us. The results of our votes are not so quickly seen, but to vote or not effects not only our lives but the lives of many others, (and typically for at least one to six years). Voting is just one expression of expressing His light. And whether or not our vote seems to make a difference, it is vital to that we cast where we stand.

Voting our Biblical values affects the lives of the unborn, the minds & standards set for school children, the safety & security of our lands, the priorities in spending our tax dollars, the poor, widows, orphans, elderly. Also, the freedom of religion, which determines boundaries where we can continue to shine His light without persecution. Voting is an expression of who we are. To not vote is to keep His light hidden under a basket. We must walk in the light that we have or it will dwindle, (**John 12:35-36 & Luke 16:10-12**).

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