

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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<b>SERMON TITLE</b>	Why Shine the Light?
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<b>SERIES</b>	
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<b>DATE</b>	7/9/2023
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<b>KEY SCRIPTURE</b>	Various
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<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	There are a few compelling reasons to shine the light of Jesus to those around us.
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<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	
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## ☞ Why Shine the Light?

*HUMOR... When Fred arrived at the Pearly Gates there was hardly any line and he didn't have to wait more than a minute before his interview. Naturally, he was a little nervous about getting through the gates and into the heavenly city. Very quickly he found himself standing before an impressive angelic being with a clipboard who started getting his entry data down. After name, address, and a few other particulars, the angelic being said, "Fred, it would help the process if you could share with me some experience from your life on earth when you did a purely unselfish, kindly deed." Well, Fred thought about it for a minute and then said, "Oh, yes. I think I have something you might be interested in. One day I was walking along and I came upon a little old lady who was being mercilessly beaten up by a huge motorcycle gang type of fellow. He was smacking her back and forth. Well, I just stepped right up and first I pushed over his motorcycle-- just to distract his attention. And then I kicked him real hard in the shins and told the old lady to run for help. And then I hauled off and gave the guy a great shot right to the gut with my fist."*

*The being looked at Fred with a great deal of interest and said, "Wow, that's quite a story. I'm very impressed. Could you tell me just when this happened?" Fred looked at his watch and said, "Oh, about two or three minutes ago."*

Last week we recapped VBS, with the theme of letting the light of Jesus shine through you. Jesus is the light of the world and boy, is his light needed today. This world is in darkness and people are blinded to the truth. They need Jesus' light. We are to let his light shine, but sometimes we are timid or afraid. So, why is it so important to shine his light? (Short answer... Jesus said to, Matthew 5:16)

## ☞ LIFE IS SHORT

Job 9:25

My days are swifter than a runner

## ☞ Psalms 39:5

**You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.**

James 4:14

You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

## ☞ HELL IS A REAL PLACE

*A USA Today poll discovered 52% of adults are certain that there is a hell, and 27% think there might be.*

*--Nelson's Bible Dictionary... Hell, as a place of punishment, translates Gehenna, the Greek form of the Hebrew word that means "the valley of Hinnom" - a valley just south of Jerusalem. In this*



valley the Canaanites worshiped Baal and the fire-god Molech by sacrificing their children in a fire that burned continuously.

In the time of Jesus, the Valley of Hinnom was used as the garbage dump of Jerusalem. Into it were thrown all the filth and garbage of the city, including the dead bodies of animals and executed criminals. To consume all this, fires burned constantly. Maggots worked in the filth. When the wind blew from that direction over the city, its awfulness was quite evident. At night wild dogs howled and gnashed their teeth as they fought over the garbage.

Jesus used this awful scene as a symbol of hell. In effect he said, "Do you want to know what hell is like? Look at the valley of Gehenna." So, hell may be described as God's "cosmic garbage dump." All that is unfit for heaven will be thrown into hell.

Hell is described as a place where "the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." Repeatedly Jesus spoke of outer darkness and a furnace of fire, where there will be wailing, weeping, and gnashing of teeth. Obviously, this picture is drawn from the valley of Gehenna.

Because of the symbolic nature of the language, some people question whether hell consists of actual fire. Such reasoning should bring no comfort to the lost. The reality is greater than the symbol. The Bible exhausts human language in describing hell. Hell is more terrible than language can express.

## ☞ 2 Thessalonians 1:9

**They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.**

The essence of hell is complete separation from God, and that is the ultimate disaster.

--Chuck Swindoll... Here are a few characteristics of hell set forth in the N.T.:

- \* It is a place where people scream for mercy, have memories, are tormented, feel alone, cannot escape (Luke 16:23-31).
- \* It is a place of unquenchable fire (Mark 9:48).
- \* It is a place of darkness (Revelation 9:2).
- \* It is a place where God's wrath is poured out (Rev. 14:10).
- \* It is a place of everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

--Billy Graham... God will never send anybody to hell. If man goes to hell, he goes by his own free choice. Hell was created for the devil and his angels, not for man. God never meant that man should go there.

Without the light of Jesus, people are destined for hell.

## ☞ HEAVEN SURPASSES ALL

--Doug Vogel... One morning at breakfast, I decided to teach my nearly four-year-old Caleb his first Bible verse--John 3:16. I slowly enunciated the words: "For God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."



*The second time I said the verse even slower, encouraging Caleb to fill in certain words. When I got to "... shall not perish but have everlasting [blank]," Caleb proudly answered, "fun!" I couldn't have said it better myself.*

### **☞ A New Body**

*--Dr. Joseph Leroy Dodds... The edition of this jalopy which I call my body is getting worse and worse, and my friends recognize it and make mental note, "He is slipping fast."*

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. (verse 54 says it will be immortal)

Revelation 21:4

...There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

### **☞ Rewards**

*My five-year-old grandnephew was obviously worried as he looked down the long aisle of the church where his aunt was to be married the following day. His grandmother had an idea. "I think I'll give a prize to the person who does the best job tomorrow," she told him.*

*We were all holding our breath the next day, but when it was time, the ringbearer performed without a hitch. When his grandmother told him, he had won the prize, he was both excited and relieved. "I was pretty sure I had it," he admitted, "until Aunt Dana came in wearing that white dress and the horn was blowing. Then I started thinking--she might win!"*

Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

### **☞ Great accommodations**

Revelation 21:10-27

...Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... shines with the glory of God... 1400 miles long, wide and high... city of pure gold, as pure as glass... decorated with every kind of precious stone... The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass... the glory of God gives it light... Nothing impure will ever enter it

This is just the capital city. I believe it will be connected to all of heaven.

*...Peter said, "Let me look inside your suitcase & see what's there." So the man dragged the suitcase over, & Peter opened it to see that it was filled with gold bars & gold bricks. Peter said, "Well, all right. If God said so, I suppose you can take that in if you want. But why in the world did you go to all this trouble just to bring more pavement into heaven?"*



I did the math years ago and concluded that a 1400-mile-long road made of gold bricks would cost more than 3 quadrillion dollars. And that's only *one* street! And it's only a street! We use dirt and water to make our roads!

### ☞ **Being with Jesus**

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

*--Leith Anderson... My family and I have lived in the same house for seventeen years. We've lived there more than twice as long as I have lived at any other address in my entire life. I'll sometimes refer to it as "our house," but more often I refer to it as "home." What makes it home isn't the address or the lot or the garage or the architecture. What makes it home is the people.*

*You may live in a bigger or newer or better house than we live in, but as nice as your house may be, I would never refer to your house as home because the people who are most important to me don't live there. So, what makes home, home, is the people in the relationships.*

*And what makes heaven, heaven, is not streets made out of gold, great fountains, lots of fun, and no smog. That all may well be. Actually, I think that heaven is far greater than our wildest imagination. The same God who designed the best of everything in this world, also designed heaven, only he took it to a far greater extent than anything we've ever seen. Yet, that's still not what makes heaven, heaven.*

*What makes heaven, heaven, is God. It is being there with him. With his presence comes peace and contentment, a fulfillment, a sense that all is well. That is also a contentment that bubbles over into the rest of life. We can anticipate this future in the presence of God, we can be with him in a place where everything he wants happens the way he wants it to happen. And that affects this life as well.*

Why shine the light of Jesus? Because all of this is real! Life is short; Hell is a real place; and, Heaven is totally worth it.

Matthew 6:19-20

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

### ☞ **Jesus is the only true light of the world. Let his light shine!**

This little light of mine...