

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXXI

May 23, 2021

No. 21

You Can Be A Star!

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While still a prisoner in Rome, Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians in which he thanked them for favors confirmed



on him and comforted them with the hope that he might be released. In this context Paul refers to the brethren as lights, luminaries, stars in the world: “That you might become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life” (Philippians 2:15-16). The NIV renders the phrase, “stars in the universe”.

Stars have a certain beauty about them. How many of you have walked outside on a fragrant spring evening and looked at the stars in the southern sky? What a beautiful and breathtaking sight. I have sat on deer stands on clear, crisp fall mornings and observed the beautiful and wonderful panorama of stars with profound admiration, wonderment, and devout meditation. In such a setting I observed the second team of moon astronauts homeward bound, streaking through the eastern sky as a bright meteor which could no longer resist the lure of the earth.

As a child on the farm, I enjoyed on occasions sleeping outside (under the wagon to avoid the dew) and observing the stars, the big and little dipper, and to wonder what makes them shine so

brightly, and where they go during the day-light hours. The scene is humbling! We are reminded of the statement of David: “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou has ordained; what is man, that thou are mindful of him?” (Psalms 8:3,4).

How are we like stars? Stars are pinpoints of light shining in darkness. Christians are lights shining in the darkness of a sinful world to direct man’s path from darkness to the glorious light of our Lord. “Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Gustav R. Kirchhoff and Robert Bunsen developed a method for identifying chemical elements with a spectroscope. When they studied sunlight they found spectra that matched others obtained from substances in their laboratory. They could thus determine the chemical composition of the sun. Other scientists developed this method until they could estimate the temperature of the sun and stars from analysis of their light. Some stars were huge and relatively cool; others small and hotter; still others smaller, with a feeble glow.

CHRISTIANS ARE LIGHTS SHINING IN THE DARKNESS OF A SINFUL WORLD, TO DIRECT MAN’S PATH FROM DARKNESS TO THE GLORIOUS LIGHT OF OUR LORD.

One can tell the spiritual temperature of a Christian by the measure of light

shining. There are those who are on fire for the Lord. They shine brightly and brilliantly as they hold forth the word of life in speech and behavior. These are the wise of whom Daniel prophesied: “and they...shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

Others have a feeble glow flickering, an uncertain light with no indication of power to sustain it. These do not have the spiritual strength to really influence a darkened world. They are ready to die.

There are still others who have cooled toward the Lord. There is no warmth or glow. Tragic.

A literal star is born, matures, lives out its life, then dies. The same is true of the Christian.

A star can die (gives no light), but the light which emanated from the star continues to give light to the world for several years after its demise. (The nearest visible star is 4 1/3 light years away.)

Likewise, a Christian’s influence continues long after death. “Though dead, yet speaks.” Will you be favorably remembered after you are gone? Will your influence for good continue after death?

You may not be able to “Carry moonbeams home in a jar,” but you can be a star. Brighten the corner where you are.