

## Reflect the Light in Your Heart

Num 21:4-9, John 3:14-21

The well-known evangelist, Billy Graham, tells a wonderful old story of himself. It happened early in his ministry. He arrived in a small town to preach a revival. Early in the day, Dr. Graham was walking around Main Street in the little town, looking for a place to mail a letter. He saw a little boy and asked him where the post office was.

The little boy said, "You go down Main Street for two blocks, turn right, go one block, then turn left, and you will see it right there on the corner."

Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you will come to the fairgrounds tonight at seven o'clock, you can hear me preach. I will be telling everyone how to get to heaven."

"I don't think I'll be there, the little boy replied. You don't even know how to get to the post office." This story gives us a laugh, but also tells us that there are two kinds of people who are looking for something in life, those who are looking for something in the earthly life and those who are looking for something of a heavenly life. The earthly life reflects the world that can be seen through physical eyes. The heavenly life is life of another world that can be seen only through spiritual eyes.

The scripture reading today in John 3: 14-21 is a part of Jesus' discourse with Nicodemus who visited Jesus in a night. Jesus answered and said to him, "Verily, verily, I say to you, except that a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus wanted to see the kingdom of God. But Jesus said to him, "Unless you are born again, you can not see the kingdom of God." In other words, with physical eyes you cannot see the heavenly world.

The gospel of John introduces us to Jesus as the light. The light conquers darkness and turns death into life. The light beams a transforming power. When the light is present, everything is changed. When the light is present in us, we are changed. Thus, we have eternal life; we are restored to the glory that our Creator God intended. The Bible tells us who this Light is: Jesus Christ our Lord.

I went to the Laramie Library yesterday and looked up the Encyclopedia Britannica and found the word 'Light.' There was no information about the true Light of Jesus. We can't find the Light, the Life, our Lord anywhere except in the Bible. In the Britannica, light is explained in the perspective of physics. But the Bible explains Light to us in the perspective of metaphysics, in the perspective of the spiritual mind.

A school teacher asked her second grade students, "What are you most thankful for in your life?" A boy answered, "I am most thankful for my glasses." The teacher was curious at the answer the boy gave. So, the teacher asked again, "Do you have any specific reason for that answer?" "I'm thankful for my glasses because with my glasses on, the other boys won't try to hit me in the face and the girls won't try to kiss me!"

If I were asked the same question, “What are you most thankful for in your life?” I would give the same answer as that boy. I see the glass as an image of our heart cleansed by the Lord. The cleaned glass, forgiven of the sin in my heart, is the thing I am most thankful for in my life.

I would like to define the human heart as glass. You and I are all a piece of glass in some sense. Like a piece of glass we are so weak, fragile and vulnerable, physically, mentally and emotionally. Like a glass human beings have both sides, inside and outside a person.

And, like a piece of glass, our hearts are needed to be three things:

First of all, our hearts are needed to be cleaned always. For to be useful like a piece of glass, we need to be cleaned on both sides. Without cleaning our hearts, like a piece of glass, we cannot receive the light as hope. If our hearts are as pure as brightly cleaned glass, we can see the heavenly world. Jesus said in His sermon, The Eight Beatitudes, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

Glass is made from silica sand like our body was made from the dust of the ground. Even though glass is so weak and fragile, it has many useful uses. Out of glass we can make a lens and optics, very important uses for people. But without being cleaned, glass is not useful. When a lens collects multiple light rays and concentrates all the beams of light to focus on certain spot for just a few minutes, this concentration of the light causes fire to emerge on the spot!

One day some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus and accused, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” Then Jesus replied, “What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean.” For a person to be cleansed, to be pure, it is more important for the heart to be clean than the outside of the body.

Sin and evil things make our hearts unclean. To be useful for the Kingdom of God, cleansing our hearts is mandatory. Without the cleaning up of our hearts and minds, we cannot see the world of the eternal God.

Second, our minds and hearts are needed to be cut occasionally. A beam of light makes wonderful color when the beam is bent through a prism. When a piece of glass is cut and shaped like a prism, it reflects the light’s beam with splendor. The worth of a diamond depends on how it is cut.

How our hearts are cut and shaped by the word of God reflects the true worth of our lives. Has your heart ever been cut and shaped by the word of God? “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any doubled-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing the soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of heart.” (Hebrew 4:12)

Third, like a mirror, our hearts need to be humbled by putting behind the “glass” of our selves a background that reflects not only us, but the image of God. Most mirrors are made by putting a thin layer of silver or aluminum on to a sheet of high-quality glass. Glass is made chiefly from silica sand, soda ash, and limestone.

The use of polishing a mirror to reflect light has been known for thousands of years, and concave mirrors have long been used to form real images of distant objects. We can have such a mirror in the Bible, which reflects the image of God and the life we were created to live together in God. “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17)

An important person was building an expensive residence in an Arab country. The builder ordered a couple of big window glasses for the guest room of the house from another country. It was very expensive, special ordered glasses. But, in the process of delivery, one of the panes of glass was cracked. The house was supposed to be completed by a certain date. It was too late to reorder the glass. The builder, the man in charge of the building project, and the architect were gathered to discuss the incident. They decided to try to find out how to use the cracked pane of glass as it was.

One of the workers who used to be a mirror maker suggested, “It would look good if we chopped the glass into pieces and glued those chopped pieces of glass in between thin layers of glass.” So they used the cracked glass as that one suggested. The windows shone with splendor like diamonds when the light beams came through the windows.

Like this reused glass, our broken lives can become a splendor when the Light of Jesus penetrates through our cracked hearts. God wants to reuse our hearts damaged by sin. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but shall have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:16-17)

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” How can we become the light of world?

It is possible when we can reflect the Light of Jesus, the faith, the hope, and life of love in our hearts to others. Jesus told us, “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16) In other words, Jesus meant, “Reflect my light through your words, deeds, and lives to others who are in the darkness.”

Nicodemus was looking for the teacher, and wisdom, and a way to see the kingdom of God through physical eyes. But, Jesus corrected him and showed him the Savior, and taught him faith, and to have a vision of the spirit to see the kingdom of God. The heart is the eye of the spirit. Our hearts need to be cleansed and to be cut and shaped by the word of God by the sword of the Spirit. Just as a glass becomes a mirror, to reflect the light, may the “glass” of our beings become a mirror to reflect the Light of Jesus Christ in our

hearts. Then, all the darkness will be gone from us and faith, hope, and love will be filled in our hearts.

The Light shone to us is not only for our delight but also for reflecting the Light to others. Those who are children of darkness do not receive the Light, do not come to the Light, do not live in Light, rather avoiding the Light because of fear that their deeds will be exposed.

But, to all who received the light, believe in his name, God gave the right to become children of God. Find the Light, follow the Light, live in the Light and reflect the Light. You are the children of Light.