

## Daily Devotional, May 29, 2020 Jesus Christ, the Light of Hope

***“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5 (NIV)***

The world is searching for hope. We look to experiences, and all sorts of things to fill the emptiness - and these distractions do work for a time. But then we turn on the news and what we see and hear of the latest pandemic numbers and updated guidelines fills our hearts and minds with trouble and anxiety. If that were not enough, we witness the demonstration, the looting, and the burning down of a police station in Minneapolis, over the tragic death of a civilian brutalized by an overzealously abusive police officer.

Seeing in many places news of the worldwide spread of the Covid-19 virus, and everything from tornadoes to wars, dims our hope a little more. Some say the pieces are moving on the global chessboard setting up the end of days. Perhaps so, but impossible to say with certainty. Only God holds that answer.

We have seen the light in our world wax and wane. We are told in scripture to be always ready. Are we ready? Or are we being distracted by every sideshow the culture presents? How much of what we see is purely meaningless chaff? How much is a reminder to be properly prepared? Where do we find our hope in these times of trial?

In John 8:12 Jesus calls Himself ***“the Light of the world”*** and says anyone who follows Him will ***“have the Light of life.”*** In Matthew 5:14 Jesus gives himself the same title - the light of the world - to those listening.

We have the hope the world is looking to find. The love of Christ for every hurting heart and His forgiveness freely given to anyone who will ask. Jesus came to tell the world about God's love for us. Then He left that task to us. <sup>34</sup> ***“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 (NIV)***

In Revelation 18:23 we are told that at some point the voice of the bridegroom (Jesus) and the bride (the church) will no longer be heard in Babylon, which represents the world system as it is destroyed under God's judgment. Christianity is a light in a darkening place, and yet day by day is less tolerated by many. They want their ears tickled (2 Timothy 4:3) not knowing what they really want or need.

Until that time, we are the light of the world mirroring and representing Christ to the world. In times such as what we are facing today, we must place our hope on Christ, shed our fear, and live so that people with questions will come to you for answers and glorify God when the answers of love and life eternal sets them free - just like the answers you were given set you, who name Jesus as your Savior, free.

***What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Matthew 10:27 (NIV)***

***Prayer: Lord God, We are not people of fear, but people of courage, for we find our hope in your promises of love and comfort and protection. We are not people who look out only for their own safety, but also for the safety of our neighbors, for we are people of love and generosity. We are your people, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever the costs, for as long as it takes, and wherever you call us. Shine your light in the dark places and make us aware of those who need our care and attention. And when we are weak and trembling, help us as a community to support one another in the light of Jesus' love. In Christ's holy name. Amen.***