

The Tabernacle – The Candlestick

Slide #2

- The gate, altar, and laver teach us what it takes to get saved
- Then we come to the Tabernacle, which represents the Church of God
- Once we are inside the Tabernacle, the curtains and furniture teach us how to stay saved

Slide #3 – The Candlestick Produces Light (Exodus 35:14)

- When you come into the Tabernacle (God's church), the first outstanding feature is "light"
 - Light is understanding (Psalm 119:130)
- Literal – there was always light inside the Tabernacle (even when it was dark outside)
 - Exodus 27:20 "cause the lamp to burn always"
 - the priests had to make sure there was plenty of oil
 - Exodus 30:7 "every morning ... dresseth the lamps"
 - the priests were to trim the wick
 - it was the priests' responsibility to maintain the lamps
- **Spiritual Lesson:**
 - great spiritual darkness in our world (people do not understand the Bible and God)
 - John 3:19 "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil"
 - But in God's true church, there is understanding
 - understanding comes through preaching, Sunday school, Evening Light hymns, etc.
 - with salvation, we are priests
 - Revelation 1:6 we are "kings and priests"
 - the priests had daily maintenance to keep the light burning
 - we have some daily maintenance to keep our lights burning (salvation)
 - how often? ("every morning")
 - to stay saved, we must read, pray, study the Bible
 - "dresseth" means "to trim":
 - there are some things in our life that need "trimmed" off
 - 1 Corinthians 9:27 "I keep under my body"
 - Hebrews 2:3 "How shall we escape, if we NEGLECT so great salvation"

Slide #4 – A Lampstand With Oil-Fed Lamps

- "candle" in the Greek is lampstand
 - Hebrew word is menorah (means lampstand)
- **Compare:**
 - candle is greatly affected by wind
 - oil-fed lamps will keep burning (not as affected by wind)
 - candle is independent (need of nothing)
 - lamp is dependent on the oil
- **Lesson:**
 - Ephesians 4:14 warns about being "carried about with every wind of doctrine"
 - less likely to happen when we depend on the oil to keep our lamps burning
 - John 15:5 "without me [Jesus] ye can do nothing"
 - we must depend on God for light (understanding)
 - Proverbs 3:5 "Lean not unto thine own understanding"

Slide #5 – What Do the Lamps Represent?

- Isaiah 62:1 "Salvation [is] as a lamp that burneth."
 - Lamps represent our experience of salvation
 - When we get saved, we are lights to the lost (a spiritually dark world)
- "lampstand" = God's true church
 - Revelation 1:13; 2:1 – Jesus is in the midst of the "seven candlesticks" (lampstand)
 - He is in the midst of His church
 - When you get saved (become a light, lamp), you need to join your lamp to the lampstand (other lights)
 - You need to be in the body of Christ (in the church)
- Matthew 5:15 "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."
 - "candle" = lamp
 - "bushel" = something manmade (false religion, our ideas)
 - "put under a bushel"
 - Bible times: at night, if they wanted darkness, they put the lamp on the floor and covered it with the "bushel" (basket)
 - light will eventually go out (no oil)
 - light is separated from the body of Christ (lampstand)
- **Lesson:** the devil wants you to put your light under a bushel
 - How?
 - by separating you from other Christians
 - by becoming discouraged and staying home from church services, skipping youth
 - by leaving God's true church for false religion
 - by putting your lamp under manmade doctrines:
 - the bushel of "once saved, always saved"
 - the bushel of "God does not care about the outward standard"
 - the bushel of "you cannot live free from sin"
 - 1 Corinthians 12:18 "God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."
 - verse 20 there are "many members, yet but one body"
 - there is only ONE church
 - there are many "lamps" (individuals) but only one "lampstand" (church)

Slide #6 – Lampstand Made of Pure Gold (Activity on Page 2 of Handout)

- Exodus 25:39 "Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it"
 - talent = about 94 pounds
 - price of gold today (2024)
 - \$2,327.44 (ounce) x 16 = \$37,239.04 (1 pound)
 - \$37,239.04 x 94 = \$3,500,469.76
 - the cost to make a pure, golden candlestick today
 - lampstand = the church
 - this teaches the church was purchased at a GREAT COST
 - Acts 20:28 Jesus purchased the "church of God" with "his own blood"
 - Parable of the Pearl (about the Church of God) says it is a "pearl of great price"

Slide #7 – Lampstand Made of "One Beaten Work" (Exodus 25:36)

- "beaten" = means the shape was changed; its form was altered
 - Matthew 27:26 Christ was beaten – "scourged" (beaten with whips)
 - Isaiah 52:14 "his visage [face] was so marred [damaged, disfigured] more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men"
 - He paid a terrible price to purchase the church (represented by the lampstand)
 - Isaiah 53:5 "he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities."
 - "of beaten work" = the church was produced through the sufferings of Christ
- "one" = lampstand was made of ONE piece of gold
 - represents unity
 - Jesus is no longer here (in an earthly body)
 - John 12:35 Jesus said (speaking of Himself) "Yet a little while is the light with you"
 - Now – Matthew 5:14 says "ye are the light of the world" (we are to be the lights)
 - For our lights to shine to the lost, we must:
 - (1) be in unity (ONE) with Christ
 - He is the central shaft, and we are the lamps
 - saints joined together with Christ
 - (2) be in unity with the rest of the body (other lamps)
 - DIVISION greatly hinders the light from shining as it should

Slide #8 – Keep the Light Shining!

- Exodus 27:20 "cause the lamp to burn always"
 - The priests were to keep the lights always shining
- Just as a light in a house at night shows that someone is home (now people leave a light on to give the impression someone is home), the lighted Tabernacle was a reminder that God was with His people.
- A lost world needs this light to show them the way
 - If we become more like the world, how will they find the right way (salvation)?
 - If we hide our lights under a bushel, how will they find Jesus?
 - are we ashamed to pray over our lunch?
 - are we unwilling to step away from dirty jokes, inappropriate conversations?
 - are we embarrassed to act and dress differently?
 - a light under a bushel is not fulfilling its purpose
 - literal purpose = lighting up a dark room
 - spiritual purpose = showing the lost how to get to Jesus and be saved
- **Be Intentional**
 - It will draw attention to you – "let your light shine"
 - The higher the lamp (high standard of living), the more effective the light
 - when you are part of God's church, you become a city set on a hill that cannot be hid (Matthew 5:14)

Slide #9 – The World Needs Your Light!

- 1 John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."
- God sent Jesus to bring His light to us

- Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5)
- that light is the "gospel of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Jesus has returned to Heaven and given us this important responsibility:
 - Matthew 5:14 "Ye are the light of the world"
 - Ephesians 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light"
 - when we live the Christian life, our light is shining
 - Song: "Your life's the only Bible that some people read"
 - The world needs the Bible, but they might never read it
 - However, they are "reading" you
- Every lamp is important!
 - when one lamp goes out (someone backslides or leaves):
 - the church's light is diminished (outreach, influence)
 - it hinders other people (discourages)
 - opportunities are lost
 - How can we let our lights shine in a greater way?
 - How can we encourage the other lights around us?
 - Is there any "dressing" that needs to be done?
 - trimming off the flesh (wanting MY way, saying what I think)?
 - Do we need more oil (God's Spirit) in our lamps?
 - The song "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning" gives a similar analogy:

Slide #10

1. Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From His lighthouse evermore;
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.

Refrain:
Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.

2. Dark the night of sin has settled,
Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing,
For the lights along the shore.

3. Trim your feeble lamp, my brother!
Some poor seaman, tempest-tossed,
Trying now to make the harbor,
In the darkness may be lost.