

THE CHRISTIANS' LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL

Theme: The Christians' light hidden means that they hide their light, keeping their salvation experience to themselves. This is NOT what Jesus told us to do. We will be dealing with the main reasons for this concealing of one's light.

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.*

Mark 4:21: *He said unto them: Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?*

Luke 8:16: *No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.*

Revelation 1:12-14: *And I turned to see the Voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw Seven Golden Candlesticks;*

¹³ *And in the midst of the Seven Candlesticks One like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

¹⁴ *His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire;*

Question: What is our Master and Lord seeking to tell us about a light hidden in a secret place, or under a bushel or under a bed?

Answer: To do so is to defeat the very purpose of the candle or the lamp. Its very purpose of existence is to give light in a dark place. Sinners are in darkness and walk in darkness and know not where they are going.

They are headed for Hell, but don't realize it. The devil has blinded their minds.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4: *But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, Who is the Image of God, should shine unto them.*



Others have blinded their own minds by willfully shutting out the glorious light of the Gospel. I must deal with that under the subject: Sin Will Put the Light Out. Our question was: What is Jesus seeking to tell us about our light being hidden in a secret place, under a bed, or under a bushel?

Jesus said in **Matthew 5:14**: ***Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.***

Our light is supposed to be visible anywhere, and everywhere. Why then do Christians often hide their lights?

1. The man-fearing spirit is the main cause.

- (a) ***Proverbs 29:25: The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.***
- (b) ***Isaiah 51:12-13:***
¹² I, even I, am He that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;
¹³ And forgettest the Lord thy Maker, Who hath stretched forth the Heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?
- (c) ***John 19:38: And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.***
- (d) ***Matthew 14:5: And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.***
- (e) ***Matthew 21:46: But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitude, because they took Him for a prophet.***
- (f) ***Galatians 2:12: For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.***
- (g) ***Philippians 1:14: And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing***

confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the Word without fear.

- (h) *Hebrews 13:6: So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

2. This man-fearing spirit comes from the devil to hinder or quench our witness.

- (a) *Romans 8:15: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*
- (b) *2 Timothy 1:7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

3. The Lord's FEAR-NOTs:

- (a) *Matthew 10:28: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
- (b) *John 19:38: And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.*
- (c) *Luke 5:10: Jesus said unto Simon: fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.*
- (d) *Luke 12:32: Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*
- (e) *Isaiah 41:10: Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right Hand of My Righteousness.*

4. How to keep the victory over fear:

- (a) *1 John 4:18: There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

- (b) ***Romans 5:5: Hope maketh not ashamed; because The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.***
- (c) ***Galatians 5:22: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.***

What is the ***Bushel*** in your life?

1. Is it the Bushel of carnality - which causes Christians to be peevish, complaining, critical, envious, or pouting?
2. Could it be the Bushel of neglect?
3. What about the Bushel of movies, or TV shows?
4. Could it be the Bushel of the stink weed?
5. Or the Bushel of the pool room, the casino, the bar?
6. The Bushel of worldly pleasures, which satan is using to bait you?
7. The Bushel of secret sin making your life inconsistent.
8. What about the Bushel hot temper, anger, wrath, so-called righteous indignation?
9. Is it the Bushel of criticism and a fault finding spirit?
10. Is it the Bushel of self-centeredness, self-righteousness?
11. Is it the Bushel of a lustful eye called lasciviousness in:



Mark 7:22: Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

2 Corinthians 12:21: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

Galatians 5:19: Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Jude 4: For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

12. Is it the Bushel of bitterness, resentment, ill-will towards your mate, or some Christian who has curdled your blood?
13. Could that Bushel be: cowardice, under the pretense of timidity or modesty? We are not to be silent about our salvation. The light not communicated is the same as putting it under a bushel, or under a bed, or in a secret place. Our light is supposed to reveal and not to conceal. It would be a sin to hide our light when the world is in such need of it.



We cannot live in solitude, in our man-made monastery, out of circulation; fearful of being defiled by the world. We are in the world, but not of it. We are light-house keepers and it is one's responsibility to be sure the light is always shining. Any negligence would be costly to ships in a storm, or near a sand bar.

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