

"For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." (Ps 18:28 AV)

Last week my text was Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man *is* the candle [or lamp] of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly [or heart]." (Proverbs 20:27)

We saw that the spirit or the soul of man is the candle or lamp of the Lord that is designed by God to search and reveal everything about itself. The soul belongs to God and will return to God at death. At the resurrection the soul will be reunited with the body and the person will stand before the Lord to be judged. We are called in this life to examine ourselves and to bring ourselves into judgment, and if we would judge ourselves, we will not be judged.

Every one of us has the obligation to do this, and this self-examination represents the image of God in its purest concept. The Spirit of God searches the deep things of God, and the spirit of man searches the hidden parts of man [1 Cor. 2]. God in the fullness of the Holy Trinity knows Himself perfectly and completely, for He is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

The figure is of a person holding a lamp, going through the chambers of a mansion, peering into all the dark corners, and becoming knowledgeable about every part of the house.

Because of sin, we are dark in heart and soul. The true God is not in our thoughts, though we may be much occupied with our idols. We wander in the darkness, not even knowing what we stumble at. Our hearts are empty and our thoughts are vanity. We are like those described in Isaiah 59:9, 10: "Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men."

There is so much that could be said about the proverb: "The spirit of man *is* the candle [or lamp] of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly [or heart]." (Proverbs 20:27) and I only touched the surface last week, but there is more to be said on this subject by using another Scripture, Psalm 18:28 that I read a moment ago: "For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." (Ps 18:28 AV)

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David wrote these words in a period of great joy and exhilaration. I would like to see three things today: 1. **Context** of the words; 2. **Comparison** with the Christian; 3. **Conscience** of the Christian. Context; Comparison; Conscience.

I. Context of David's words.

A. David had been anointed by Samuel to be king to replace Saul. He had come as a youth tending sheep to fight with Goliath, and after his remarkable victory over the giant and married Saul's daughter and had won great battles against the Philistines.

- B. David's successes had stimulated Saul's jealousies and David had to flee into the wilderness. For years he and his band of loyal men, hid in the rocks and the caves in the wilderness, barely escaping with their lives on more than one occasion. He was considered a revolutionary and a rebel against Saul and many, many lies were told about him. Only David's faith sustained him, for he trusted in God during these dark and bitter times. Once he had to pretend to be mad and let the spit run as slobber on his beard as he scratched like a madman on the gate of the city of Gath, a chief city of the Philistines where his name was hated. These were dark, dark times for David.
- C. But God wonderfully delivered David from all his troubles and sorrows, and turned his darkness into joy and prosperity, for Saul was slain by the Philistines. Against all human wisdom, the hearts of Israel turned again to David and they made him king over the tribe of Judah, and after the death of Saul's son, over all Israel.
- D. This is a Psalm of praise to God for the wonderful grace that He had given to David. This song is found in 2 Samuel 22, and then included in the Psalter of Israel with a few slight modifications.
- E. God had brought David out of the darkness of tribulation and sorrow into the light of mercy and grace.

II. Comparison with the Christian.

- A. This Psalm is quoted twice in the New Testament and applied to Jesus Christ. These two quotations are Heb. 11:13 and Rom 15:9 which apply verses 2 and 49 to Christ.
- B. 1 Corinthians 10 says that the things in the Old Testament are written for our admonition. The ends or the purposes of God for the world are revealed in Jesus Christ and everything in the Old Testament is for our admonition and instruction. Jesus Christ is the son of David and sits upon His eternal throne in Heaven which is called David's throne, because David spoke of Christ and is a figure of Christ.
- C. Jesus was persecuted and troubled by the king of this world, Satan and all his devils. Satan tried to kill him when he was just a small baby; Jesus was lied about and men sought His death many times during His ministry. But God protected Him and preserved Him just as He did David. God is a rock and a fortress and was the refuge for Christ, even as the rocks and caves and hills were a refuge for David during His exile. At the very end when it seemed to be hopeless, Satan appeared to triumph over Christ, for Jesus said Himself that His crucifixion was Satan's hour and darkness covered the land to hide the sufferings of the Lord Jesus on the Cross.
- D. But just as David triumphed over all his enemies through the wonderful power and providence of God, Jesus rose from the death, raised by the power of God, revealing the righteousness of Christ, gaining victory over sin and death and hell forever, and is now seated on the throne of glory, the throne which is the fulfillment of the figure of David's kingdom.
- E. Just as David's triumph was a triumph for his loyal followers and friends, so the triumph of Christ is triumph for all the people who believe in Christ, love Him, and follow Him.
- F. The version this Psalm in 2 Samuel substitutes the words, "29 For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness." There is no contradiction because when God is your light, He lights your lamp!

III. Conscience. This is both my third point and the application.

- A. I would like to expand your view of your conscience this morning. The narrow view of conscience is this: it is what makes you feel guilty when you have done something wrong, or it is a guide to help you understand what to do that is right.
- B. In the light of this study I would expand that definition to include everything in your soul, and mind, and heart. It includes all the senses of the soul that brings awareness of spiritual things: taste and see that the Lord is good; incline your ear and hear; feel after him; seek the sweetness of the fragrance of Christ in all things. The whole soul is the candle of the Lord, searching all the hidden places of the soul. Your conscience is not something you have, it IS you.
- C. Your soul, by the gift of God, has dim understanding of two important things, according to Scripture.
1. Knowledge of the existence of God: Romans 1. God's eternal power and godhead are clearly seen by every man, so that he is without excuse. God's power and His authority are known by man, woven into the very fabric of his being.
 2. Moral sense, as Romans 2 says so that every man excuses himself, or accuses himself for his behavior. He, in distinction from the animals, holds himself accountable for his actions.
 3. But both of these things are horribly perverted and twisted, so that what should be light to man has become darkness. We seek God, but not in Scripture, and we imagine to ourselves comfortable gods that do not exist; we excuse ourselves for the most wicked thoughts and deeds, and accuse others of evil that they have not committed, and may even feel innocent of those things that are monstrous crimes in the eyes of God. Jesus put it this way, "If the light that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness."
- D. Only God can light your candle.
1. David's woes were so great that he could not deliver himself. Saul was his king, and only God could deliver David from the power of Saul.
 2. Only God can deliver you from the bondage of your darkness: to open your eyes to see the true nature of God and to understand right from wrong; to restore you to the image of God so that your soul can function before God as it should.
 3. God created your soul so that you would seek after God, to know Him and love Him. He also created your soul to examine itself, to search out all the corners and crannies of your soul that the light of Christ can banish the darkness and sanctify you. You have been predestined to truly be in the likeness of Christ, and your own soul is to participate in that sanctification. But we cannot do this until God has lit our candle.
 4. The beginning of this is put in this way by the Apostle Paul: 2Co 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
 5. Jesus Christ is the light of the world: When you come to Him in faith, committing yourself to him, His Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God, and light begins to flood into your soul and you will begin to see as you never saw

before. He has lit your candle; your whole soul is enlightened. “For we have not received the Spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2Tim. 1:7. The words of the proverb are fulfilled: Pr 4:18 “But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”

We will speak of this again next week. Until then, let the word of Christ season in you; meditate on these things; receive the light that you may be children of the light. God bless you. 1Thess. 5: 5 “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”

May God bless you. Amen and Amen.