

## THE LORD'S LAMP FOR LIFE'S DARKNESS

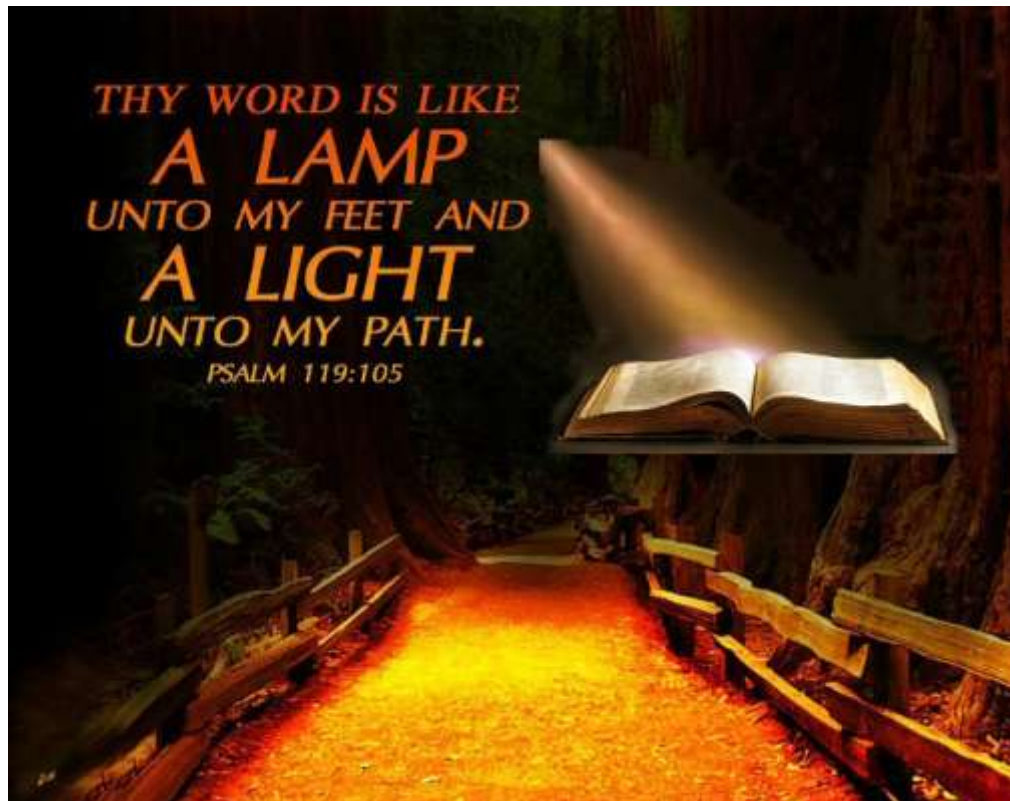
Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

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Brave men have descended many miles down into the abyss of the ocean in specially designed equipment. There is a point in the ocean depths where there is a total absence of light, a world of eternal darkness. What an awful place, how terrifying and mysterious those tremendous pressures and depths.

When travelers visit the great Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico and descend hundreds of feet into the bowels of the earth, the Ranger tells everyone to remain motionless for one minute. During that moment the lights are turned off and absolute darkness prevails. The darkness is frightening and oppressive, and only the thought that it is just a little experiment keeps a person from panic.

What a strange and unreal world the moon must be. Due to the absence of an atmosphere there is no diffusion of light, no gradual change from light to darkness. If we were on the moon, and would step out of the intolerably bright sunlight, and go behind a rock or crater, we would be immediately in absolute darkness. Light and darkness are divided instantly on our satellite for it is a world of sharp contrasts.



THY WORD IS LIKE  
**A LAMP**  
UNTO MY FEET AND  
**A LIGHT**  
UNTO MY PATH.  
PSALM 119:105

The world we live in is in absolute spiritual darkness and, in this respect, is like the moon. That thought should startle us. However, our text tells us of a light for our spiritually dark world.

#### THE LORD'S LAMP FOR LIFE'S DARKNESS

##### 1. WITHOUT THIS LAMP WE ARE LOST

Man darkened his own world by sinning and disobeying God.

From that time on man's mind has been darkened and spiritual blackness has ruled in the world. We are told of this condition, "and the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not," ([John 1:5](#)). Without this Lamp of God man simply gropes about in this world, not knowing where he is going, or why he is in the world. He can only travel in circles.

Imagine if you can a world of blind people who carry their own darkness with them. How awful, how hopeless. How could they ever find any path for life? Jesus said, "Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" ([Luke 6:39](#)) Yet this is the true spiritual picture of man on earth.

Long ago, travelers in the East, overtaken by night, would simply sit still and wait for the morning to arrive with its welcome light. It was hopeless to go on without light. This is the setting of our text, and the implication is that without that lamp we cannot continue our journey through life.

Think of the pitfalls, the holes, the rocks, the cliffs, the wild animals, the terrors of the dark. At best we could only wander helplessly in the blackness. The end of such a journey of darkness can only lead to eternal darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Has this picture of the world been painted too darkly? Not at all. Other passages give us the same hopeless condition of man. "The ungodly are not so: but ate like the chaff which the wind driveth away," ([Ps 1:4](#)).

Look at the children of this world, do they have a goal in life, do they ever talk of God, of the next life, of judgment, of eternity? They flee from one theory of the creation of the world to another, they constantly grope in darkness.



"Lost" is a frightening word. See the little children when they have been separated from their parents. How terrified they are, how the tears flow. This is the true condition of the children of this world, and the really sad part of it all is, they do not know that they are lost, not do they care.

We can move, but never get anywhere in life without a light. The situation is not hopeless, for God has supplied us with a Lamp.

## 2. WITH THIS LAMP WE ARE SAFE

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." God the Holy Ghost created this Lamp. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, "(2Pet 1: 21) . God gives only good things to us, and this Lamp is one of His most precious gifts to man in his darkened life.

When we speak of lamps, candles, and torches, we are projected into the past. Today we would speak of flashlights and other modern means of illumination. The source of light is not important, God's holy Word is light for a dark world.

From this Lamp of God we see Jesus as the only path to heaven. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," says Jesus ([John 14:6](#)). Jesus died and paid for all our sins on the cross. We are assured by the Lord Himself , that if we put our trust and faith in our Savior, we shall surely get to eternal life.



All our fears are dispelled, now we see the way clearly with the light and Lamp of the Word. No more groping about, no more uncertainty, now we know our way through life, now we can travel in safety to eternal life.

We may not always see very far ahead with the Lamp of God, we may not see all the dangers and pitfalls in the far distance, but we can see far enough in advance to guide us safely and to circumvent many disaster areas. With this Lamp we find advice for every problem, we receive comfort for every trouble, we are offered guidance in all doubt.

It is even better travelling through life in a group, a church group. There is always someone ahead who is holding up the Light for others to follow. In a group, the chances of getting lost are much lessened. A goal is implied in our text. All paths have a purpose and aim. There is no path which leads nowhere. Without a goal or purpose life makes no sense at all. If we were created, only to exist on this world for a few years, and then to pass on into non-existence forever, life would have

no reason or logic. Our Lamp shows us the path and goal of life, to be with God forever through faith in our Redeemer. Saved by grace, saved by faith, is the song of the redeemed in Christ.

Many people cannot see where they are going. They go around in circles in life, stumbling and falling, constantly hurting themselves. There is a light for these people, let them use it.

Is the way perhaps uncertain and not always clear? Brother, take that Lamp and look where you are going.

Do we sometimes trip and fall, or bruise ourselves on a rock? Lift up that Lamp and there will be little trouble to see the way. The more we use the Word of God, the brighter will the path of life be shown in our darkness.

This Lamp of God shows us Him who is also "the light of the world," Jesus our only Savior. He alone can bring us to that realm where we shall need no more lamps, for we shall be basking forever in the everlasting light of the glory of God. AMEN

PRAYER. O holy Lord, how often have we fallen and lost *our* way in life. Thy Lamp has always saved us and brought us back again upon the one true way. Thy Lamp has shown us the "Light of the world." May Thy Lamp be held high above our heads that we finally reach the aim and purpose of our time on earth, to be with Thee, O holy Trinity in everlasting light. Thou wilt surely hear our prayers for the sake of Jesus who died for us. AMEN