



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 7

March 15, 2019

No. 11

## Lights in the Wrong Place

by E. M. G.

"What have you there that is so interesting?" asked Mr. Dale of his grandson, earnest, as he noticed his long-continued reading.

"It is a book about ships and ship-wreckers," said the boy, looking up, "and it tells about those horrible wreckers.

"Let me hear something about it," said grandpa.

And Ernest responded promptly, "Just now I was reading about the tricks they used to entice ships on the rocks. One way they did this was to take an old horse or donkey, and ties rope with a lantern fast to it, around his neck. Then they turned him loose to wander up and down on the beach. You know, grandpa, the night would be very dark and stormy, and if a ship came near enough to see the light, the captain would think it was on another vessel, and so would run on the rocks and be wrecked."

What reason would the captain have, for thinking light was on another vessel, and not on the land?" asked grandfather.

"Why, don't you see," cried Ernest, "if the light was on the land it would be stationary, but on a ship it would bob up and down, and move along, which was just what this light seemed to do."

"And yet," remarked his grandfather, "lights are put on rocky coasts on purpose to warn ships out of danger."

"Oh yes," answered Ernest, "when they are up in lighthouses, standing still."

"Did you ever think," said his grandfather' how those two kinds of lights are like two kinds of Christians?"

"Why, no," answered the boy, looking puzzled, "I don't know what you mean, grandpa?"

"Suppose you get your Bible and turn to the fifth chapter of Matthew, the sixteenth verse."

Ernest did so, and read, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven."

"I don't just see yet," he said when he had finished; "Of course I know Jesus called Christians lights, but I don't see how they can be like the swinging lantern around the donkey's neck."

"There is one little word in that verse I want you to notice," said his grandfather, "it is the word `so.'"

It is very important how and where a Christian lets his light shine. If his actions are wrong, or he is found in places where no follower of Christ ought to be, his light is shining in a wrong place, and like the deceitful beacon, he will lead others out of the way, and on the rocks; but if, instead, he is careful of his example, his words, his actions; if he is never seen in any place where Christ's servant should not be, then he is like the light in the lighthouse, shining far out over the 'waves of this troublesome world,' and guiding travelers to the. peace and safety of the Father's home."

Ernest read over his verse thoughtfully, then he said :

"Grandpa, it would be a dreadful thing to be a false light, wouldn't it? I hope I never will be."

"May God grant, my dear boy," said grandfather, "that you may be enabled by his grace, to let your light so shine, that by it men may be led to glorify your Father which is in heaven (**Mt 5:16**). And may he keep you front the sin of ever showing your light in the wrong place."—E. M. G., in New York Observer.

**Gospel Advocate 11-17-1886**

# The Shield

by Terry W. Benton

In all the armor of God there is a piece of protection called “the shield of faith” with which “you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one” (**Eph.6:15**). That is a powerful thing to have and use. Another way of saying that is, “nothing Satan tries to throw at you is more powerful than the shield of faith that God has given you.” Now, here is the thing. If you lay down your faith shield every time a problem comes along, then Satan wins every time. He gets to you, discourages, disheartens, and defeats you. You have to see what is coming, actually hold the shield of faith up, and when you do, you are never defeated. You learn the value of lifting the shield into place. The shield is composed of faith in God, faith that He is with you, and that He is greater than all the evil forces. Don’t lay the shield aside when problems come at you. That is the very time to pick it up and use it. Think of the times David picked up the shield of faith to protect him from the many dangers and attacks of evil people with evil motives.

**Ps 3:3-4** - But You, O Lord, are a shield for me,  
My glory and the One who lifts up my head.  
4 I cried to the Lord with my voice,  
And He heard me from His holy hill.

**Ps 5:12** - For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous;  
With favor You will surround him as with a shield. NKJV

**Ps 18:2-3** - The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I  
be saved from my enemies.

**Ps 18:30** - As for God, His way is perfect;  
The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

The difference between us and David may come down to which one of us actually picked up the shield of faith and used it when the fiery dart was slung toward us. Did we use the shield? We are not promised a problem-free life here. We are given powerful armor to deal with whatever comes at us. Learn quickly to use the shield.