

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

**Matthew 5:16**

## Store In My Heart

### Psalms 62:2

He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.

Notice the first two words "He only." Do you get the importance of what that is saying? There can be no other rock and salvation. God is the only one able to provide the safety, stability, and salvation that we all need.

As I write this, many across the nation have been, and still are without power due to the ice storm that passed through the last few days. This should be evidence to us that man with all his wisdom and works cannot provide unwavering safety and stability.

Let God be your only place of security. God can. God has. God will. Put your life in God's hands so that He can be your stronghold. He is not shaken by anything that may arise here. In His hands only we have safety and salvation.



# Living Without Light

## Mitchell Stevens

On the afternoon of August 14, 2003, the northeastern United States experienced the largest power outage in history, reaching from Detroit to New York City. Experts commenting on the outage have frankly said that the lines have long been overloaded, and we can certainly understand why. Every day modern life depends on electricity. Is there a moment of any day when we are not using it? One is never more aware of this frightening fact than when left in the darkness and sweltering heat of life without power. Folks in my part of the country can empathize with those who experienced summer "the old fashioned way." Back in mid-July, 2003, the city of Memphis, Tennessee experienced what will long be known by its citizens as "the Summer Storm of 2003." High winds plowed through the city, wreaking havoc on its trees, roofs, and power lines.

Everyone's life was disrupted by the storm's awesome violence. Nearly 300,000 Memphians were left without electricity - tens of thousands did not have their power restored for weeks. Traffic was in gridlock for days along major roads whose traffic lights were without power. Businesses were forced to close their doors and await repairs. Food in freezers and refrigerators thawed and spoiled. The cell phones that no one can live without today stopped working. People were forced out onto their porches and patios to escape from the stifling heat of their un-air conditioned homes. Three times our congregation assembled in the stuffy semi-dark for worship. I almost had to write out my sermons with pencil and paper -- the thought alone gives me a shiver! Without a doubt, the weeks following the storm have shown me how much we all rely on electricity -- it comforts, preserves and supports people, and even directs traffic! Within hours of not having light I felt the effect of its loss and missed it -- deeply!

Upon realizing how strongly we depend upon this sort of light, I could only wonder, by comparison, how much more or less we rely on the Light of Life.

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Annette Gray is doing better but still feels a little weak. All plan to be at services today.

Paula Laubach has gotten results from her recent tests. Next is discussions regarding treatment for her condition.

Tonight we start in 2Kings 10

Last Wednesday's weather kept most folks at home. Our class this Wednesday will start in Hebrews 6:4.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

God existed before there was light as we know it. It was His first glorious creation. Thus, light has been interminably linked with God. *"God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all"* (**1John 1:5**). It is a symbol of God's purity, of the righteousness and blessings of salvation, but also of the all-revealing nature of God's judgment (**Psalm 90:8**). God shares His light with the world in His teachings: *"The unfolding of Thy words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple"* (**Psalm 119:130**). Thus, light is used in the New Testament, especially by John, to describe Jesus and His teachings -- He was God's inspired word in the flesh. *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men"* (**John 1:4**). Jesus and Jesus alone is *"the Light of the world"* (**John 8:12; 9:5**), the path of salvation to God. Jesus provided the light in person for a time (**John 9:5; 12:35**), then gave His light to the apostles after ascending to His throne of power (**Acts 2; 13:47**). Their inspired work is our source of this light (**2Corinthians 4:4**). Our eternal destiny is hinged on our reaction to the gospel light. Sinners seek after darkness, but the righteous are attracted to the Light (**John 3:19-21**). Light is revealing -- it uncovers wicked deeds and it illuminates acts of goodness. If one truly follows after the light of God, he will further reflect that light to the world (**Matthew 5:14-16**). The gospel light provides the spiritual equivalent of everything that we expect from the light we pay to have wired into our homes. It comforts us, preserves us, and directs us in the way we should go. *"This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy word has revived me"* (**Psalm 119:50**). *"O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Thy holy hill, And to Thy dwelling place"* (**Psalm 43:3**).

Do we depend on the Lord's light as much as we do the power company? Do our study habits reflect this? Does our attendance to Bible class and worship service reflect this? If we go day after day without the power and light of the gospel, our goods will spoil, confusion will skew our direction, and cobwebs and decay will begin to form in the shadowy corners of our dimly-lit spirits. Let us confidently affirm, day by day, that *"the Lord my God illumines my darkness"* (**Psalm 18:28**), laying aside the deeds of darkness to put on the armor of light (**Romans 13:12**), looking to the day when *"there shall no longer be any night; and (God's children) shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever"* (**Revelation 22:5**).

(In our lesson a few weeks ago we considered how we are the "light of the world." We also mentioned that the light we shine is not our own but a reflection of the light of God through our relationship with Jesus. The only way we can reflect that light is if we are constantly exposed to it. When Earth gets between the Sun and the Moon it no longer reflects the Sun. Let us make certain nothing gets in the way of our SON Light. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!