

# Is Your Light Bulb Working?

**This article has been written for the Faithchasers Network**

## Is Your Light Bulb Working?

So we all might want to embark on a global “let’s go save the world” ministry and save the planet from its self – you know, like the American President who decade in and decade out saves the world from intergalactic invaders. But as much as I might really enjoy writing a frank comment on the disgraceful impact these fictional stories have on our society, it is not the focus of this article.

For most believers, the day-to-day regime of living involves getting out of bed in the cold mornings, having breakfast of sorts, dressing, kissing wife/mum/the kids and the dog – or all seven if you are blessed, and trudging off to the public transport service to get to work. Of course there are those that drive to work and their battle is for parking spots that do not cost them an arm and a leg, and to make sure theirs is made as difficult as it could be, those who pull the strings of our urban revenue collection put a congestion tax on cars that need to enter the places where most of the country’s commerce congregates – it’s called the CBD for a very good reason. But again this is not the focus of this article.

Did you note the title? Yes of course you did because this is why you are reading this. It’s about light bulbs. And these are very special light bulbs because when they are switched on, they emit a light that traces back to over thirteen billions years to the very beginning of our universe. It is called the Original Light and we find reference to it in the greatest history book of all time. Now don’t go off thinking this is just another one of those, you know, “Ho Hum, here we go again because he had nothing better to do.” Because this is very real and you need to know about it.

*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.<sup>1</sup>*

So here we are, only in the second paragraph of the subject matter and we have jumped straight in to a whole new journey of discovery. Well we are not talking about an incandescent light globe, nor an LED, a CFL or an ARC or in fact not any light emitting device of the visible light spectrum. “Wow!” You say, “Can I have one of these new ones?”

Hmmmm.

Let’s digress for a minute back to our journey to work. So you arrive at work having perhaps been rained on if you had to walk from the station to work, or

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:3

even getting from the sixth floor of the car park which is generally three blocks away from where you and your colleagues work.

Well done! You made it on time.

You take off your jacket, scarf and gloves, maybe a quick visit to the loo, and you are ready for the day.

What do you mean you don't want to start yet?

Oh sorry, you have to sign-in. Well off you go.

Now what?

Oh, I forgot you like to have a coffee too. Well back you go and grab a pick-me-upper and "now" you are ready for the day. ("Yes!")

Oh goody!

If this sounds familiar I am very pleased. You join the overwhelmingly largest sector of the work force in the Western world and as a generality you spend the next eight hours (or so) doing that which you are paid to do. At the end of the day, assuming it has been a pretty good day (some are not so good I know), you pack up your work things and do the reverse of the morning ritual and this occurs day-in and day-out.

At the odd times when you have moments of reflection, do you think, "I am a Christian, I believe in God and I really would like to "Doooooo" something to help in the world."

Well may be there's a solution for you. I have been afforded a very contrasting work experience which in later years as I puzzled over how a believing Christian could "preach the gospel" in a secular work place, often within an environment that was positively anti God in its general attitude, and not be ostracised by all and sundry as "one of those", and hence lose all traction in gaining the respect of fellow workers.

There can be a conflict of ideology between being a Christian on one hand, and with the other holding the responsibility for supervising other staff or directing operations as senior management in a work place. This contrast is sometimes difficult to come to grips with. On a Sunday we can sit in a congregation and really enjoy the worship and praise of our Lord. But come Monday morning,

we enter a totally different paradigm and we revert back to – “I would really like to Doooooo something.”

Now we are talking about being believers and partakers of the Christian salvation and being a child of the only living God. We are talking about having very special access to the God who created the entire universe and particularly formed man in the image of Himself so that when redemption takes us to the eternal heaven, we are contoured in bodily conformity with others of the celestial realm. I refer to angels, cherubim – and of course our Lord and Saviour and - if I may be bold, our great God himself.

If we think about this, even asking God directly (with respect) for a solution, you might be surprised to find yourself with an inner urge to really get in and understand the “living” bible. Now don’t scoff at this (as many do) I can tell you directly in unambiguous language that the biblical scriptures are not some bunch of words typed onto a compendium of pages. Oooh No! Definitely not! Let me tell you that the scriptures are alive, they speak to our inner man, they raise questions and lead us to answers we ask of God. They are intuitive and become part of one’s every-day living – if you let them. And so I sought to understand the scenario above.

Now we could have a very interesting discussion about morality in general society and we would be a little disappointed that there is an observable decline toward sinking morals equating to the rise in immoral anti-God behaviours some of which that are now legislated into common place in the Western world.

The thing about moral value is that it is not a fixed codification of behaviours that we can look up in a book. General society is diverse to the extremes as what it deems to be moral living and have a very obscure view of what is immoral. With no guide, there is no consensus as to what we as a nation should aspire to in our day-to-day behaviours. We see atrocities committed by professionals who in their own circles are excused. We see society held to ransom by very vocal and intimidating minority groups who push for the legislated right to parade their immorality before the world.

What was immoral fifty years ago is now accepted as being – “okay” and this trend is hell bent on destroying our communities’ values and decimating the future for our children. I really question the motive of the power brokers who

incite these anarchist behaviours that are being enforced so that they impact every living soul. God fearing souls beware!

A study of the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ is very profound on this subject. Of course He knew where society would be pushed into going with regard to its moral values and he gave us some very graphic insights through John's prophecy in the Book of Revelation. We can also pick out of the Gospels the answer to this vexing issue.

In essence the answer (of course) is to demonstrably be a Christian and not by our mouths alone. And it is very easy to not be aware of how to do this. We could make light of it and say things like "how about we throw on the prayer shawl at lunch time, or have what was called "morning prayers" like a particular organisation regularly had (which was nothing to do with praying I might add), but in fact not a word need be said. However to do this there needs to be a clear Christian standard for how this could be demonstrated and so, enter the Lord's word on the matter.

1(a) Matthew 7:12

*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

1(b) Luke 6:31

*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*

2(a) James 2:8

*If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:*

2(b) Galations 5:14

*For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.<sup>2</sup>*

We can paraphrase these down to :

**Deal with other people in a manner that you would wish they would deal with you if the roles of the situation were reversed.**

And secondly,

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<sup>2</sup> The word Love comes from the Greek Ag-ap-ah'-o. Perhaps from ἄγαπᾱ agan; to love (in a social or moral sense) not sensual as per Gr. Phileo

**Interact with others with moral behaviour and social manners as you would normally do for yourself and your close friends.**

We all should know these scriptures, but sometimes when we are in the work paradigm everything can get lost in the moment. And there are innumerable situations where the opportunity for following these guides can be applied. We can speak from the perspective of a wage worker right through to the chairman of the board. So do not think you are too low in the organisation's workforce to be noticed, and don't think that you are too high in the organisation where you are above it all. As a supervisor, a manager, a CEO, an ED or an NED, a CFO, COO, Director of Human Resources, or any role where you have control of staff – and more particularly if you hold the power to hire and fire, there is a great calling for all Christians in the work force to exercise their belief.

But what about business ethics? Does this come into this discussion also? Well I believe it does. We cannot be two-faced about our behaviour; we are either one thing or the other. So our dealings with B2B transactions, our philosophy of conducting our business and also to what lengths we push the boundaries of the envelope to put that extra dollar into profits. Organisations that have a heavy reliance on retail sales for their revenue generally have a raised rate of complaints being registered, and interaction with the public to earn your money is a tough business in anyone's language. But does it also challenge us to be ethical in how we deal with customers, ie attitude, and secondly, outcomes? I certainly think so.

I can see that there may be some reticence to get going with this. I can see that some may even have serious reservations about their current standing in their work community. But don't allow the doubts to drown your resolve to try; we have a mighty God who is watching over us.

In the work place just our actions alone can preach the Gospel, they can uplift the name of our Lord to our colleagues. It is one of those strange things about being an active Christian, your actions can preach Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, just as effectively as any of our stumbling words. If you believe this and do that which our Lord told us to do you will be very handsomely rewarded.

We started out on the article talking about the original light that occurred in the Universe. This light is not a torch light, it is an enormously bright emission

of the energy from God that beams out in every direction when it is switched on. Don't be tricked into thinking that this is all "hoo-ha". This light is the light of the world and our human senses pick it up. No it can't be measured, no it can't be photographed but with our eyes we see it. And we can attest to the existence of that light:

Genesis 1:4

*And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

There are two matters here. Where we read that "*God saw the light, that it was good*" is important for our understanding. We shouldn't put this into human terms, but rather look at it from the perspective that in God's terms that light was "good". The Song-line is telling us that this light would work – and work very well. It tells us that it will achieve that which it was made to do, and that is it is capable of displacing evil (darkness). It is the illumination of God's divine spirit, it divides between good and evil. It is never confused as to its purpose and Christians are empowered to shine the light of God into the world through their indwelling Holy Spirit.

Matthew 5:14

*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

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.*

Matthew 5:16

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Luke 1:79

*To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

John 8:12

*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

John 9:5

*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

Ephesians 5:14

*Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

So this is the call.

**Deal with other people in a manner that you would wish they would deal with you if the roles of the situation were reversed.**

**Interact with others with moral behaviour and social manners as you would normally do for yourself and your closest friends.**

These two things have been extolled by the Lord; these two things are the fulfilment of the law; and these two things should be the iron tracks that we run our lives upon until we cease to be here on the terrestrial surface of this planet.

All Christians should put them into practise in the work place, at home and in our day-to-day lives. Make it your life's agenda item Number One. It should not only be preached from the pulpit of every church but our pastors should be telling the youth from a very young age how to practise it.

Every Sunday-School teacher should be teaching this to the young minds of the children in their care, and it should be upon every parents list to instil in their sons and daughters that this is the way of life how a Christian should behave.

**Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.**

**Treat with the utmost moral respect and courteousness your neighbour, work-colleague, business contact, customer, bosses, lower stationed staff, friend, acquaintance, family, sports team members, brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Now, back to the focus of the article; Oh! That's right! We were talking about light bulbs and the dreariness of day-in and day-out going to work. Did I mention that God is the original light.....?

With the blessing of our High Priest now in heaven and the Royal Priesthood of Believers – shine your light.

Geoff Rooke