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## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

*“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”. (Matthew 5: 14, 16)*

One of the privileges given to us as followers of Jesus Christ is to share what we have seen, heard and experienced regarding the Christian faith. Sometimes this is called witnessing or testimony. Jesus expects us to share the “good news” of the Gospel with others. It is His expectation that we participate in bringing people to know Him, and that we would be doing so in our homes, our neighborhoods and also AT WORK.

### **The Light Of The World – So Others Can See**

The Lord says, we are the “light of the world.” Light is an amazing thing, without light we are in the “dark.” Light symbolizes insight as well; often people say, “I see” when they gain understanding. As Christians we are to make visible the truth of the gospel to others. We are to let our behavior, language, attitudes, morals, ethics, and our work reflect “His light” so others can see. We are also to give insight and understanding into His Kingdom so people can truly “see.” We are warned not to put His light under a bushel and hide from others. The light we have is meant to be seen in us and shared with others.

It is also worth mentioning that not everybody likes “the light”. In fact, many hate the light because it exposes evil and sin. Many people would rather stay in the shadows. Here is how Jesus said it in **John 3:19-20**:

*“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”*

People who are evil and sinful will avoid the light, and hate those who bring the light into their world.

## In The World But Not Off The World

Jesus said we should be “in the world” but not “of the world”. The fact is that we are simply passing through, this earth is not our home. The Bible tells us that we are pilgrims, transient and looking forward to our true home which is heaven. While on earth, we are to obey Jesus, honor God, serve Him and be engaged in populating heaven. God has deliberately chosen to use people in this process. He is determined to work through us even though we are imperfect.

One of the places we are most “in the world” is at work. The vast majority of all Christians will be working in jobs that are secular. We will be rubbing shoulders with unbelievers, and that presents both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is not to become “like the world” and be seduced by all the world offers. We will be tempted to compromise, to go along, to not rock the boat, to remain silent, participate in gossip, share in off color jokes and try to blend in. Standing strong for Christ in such a setting can and often is difficult. But it also opens the door of opportunity to be “salt” and “light.” Believe it or not, people will notice. They will notice what you do and what you do not do. I believe it was Francis of Assisi that said, “Bear witness to the Lord and if you have to speak.” We all know that “actions speak louder than words.”

## You Will Be My Witnesses

After the resurrection, Jesus gathered with His followers and they asked if He was going to restore the Kingdom of Israel at that time. Jesus told them not to worry about the time, that was the Father’s business, but rather wait in Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. Then they would be about the work of “witnessing” for Him. ***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8***

Christians are to bear witness to who Jesus is and what Jesus has done in their life. In general, your witness addresses three things: What was my life like before I became a Christian; How I came to faith in Christ; What is the difference it has made in my life today. This is a personal account which people can believe or not believe. What they can not say is, “you are wrong” and they can not disagree because you are simply sharing your experience. Witnessing is simply telling others about your faith.

## What We Have Seen And Heard We Make Known To You

We see a glimpse of this in both John and Peter:

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us. 1 John 1:1-2*

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15*

Both John and Peter were conscious of sharing what they had seen and heard, and encouraged others to be ready to give “witness” or testimony to those who ask about the hope that we have in Jesus.

Perhaps the most difficult challenge for Christians in our country today is navigating the “politically correct” tight rope in the work place. Christianity is clearly under assault with increased hostility toward public displays of the faith – The 10 Commandments; Crèche Scene at Christmas time; public prayer at High School graduations; voicing opposition and being accused of “hate speech.” The Lord never told us it would be easy, but He said he would be with us.

## Leading The Christian Life At Work

I would venture to guess that most of our laity have very little training in this area and for the most part leave their Christianity at home when they go to work. There are a lot of reasons for this, but it is our hope that this training manual will be useful in changing all of that. As a Christian you are actually working for the Lord all the time. You are not just a Christian on Sunday or at church functions, you are always a Christian, even at work.

We trust that this manual will provide you with some straightforward guidance on how to remain faithful and influential at work. The lessons are practical and filled with wisdom so you can be an effective witness of the Lord at work. It also gives you some thoughts on seeking the Lord about your job and vocation, changing jobs; your attitude about your work and ideas if you own a business.

May the Lord bless you in this study.

Alan W. Hansen  
President and CEO  
ACTS 29 Ministries  
Atlanta, Georgia