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# Light of the World III (Ordering Your Steps)

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Influencing The Culture

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## Light of the World III (Ordering Your Steps)

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- I. Series: New Series Influencing the Culture
  - A. Matthew 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: ...**
  - B. Subjects: Salt of the Earth I(Seasoning), II(Preservative), III(Disinfectant), IV(Offering)
  - C. Matthew 5:14–16 (AV)<sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid...**
  - D. Subject: Light of the World (The Darker It Gets, the Brighter We Shine)
  - E. Subject: Light of the World II (Revealing The Vision)
- II. Homework: Study Matthew 5:14 -16, Psalm 37:23-25, Matthew 7:13-15
  - A. What's the difference between the Light of Vision and the Light of Direction?
  - B. What are the challenges to having your steps ordered?
  - C. How should the Word be used to order our steps?
- III. Text
  - A. Matthew 7:13–15 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <sup>14</sup> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. <sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**
  - B. Psalm 37:23–25 (AV)<sup>23</sup> The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. <sup>24</sup> Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him* with his hand. <sup>25</sup> I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.
  - C. Psalm 119:133 (AV)<sup>133</sup> Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.
- IV. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Light of the World III (Ordering Your Steps)
  - A. Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**
  - B. As the Light of the World, we first said “The Darker it Gets the Brighter we Shine”
  - C. Last week we begin to look at 2 other aspect of Influencing the World with our Light; namely through Divine Vision and Divine Direction
    - 1. Light of the World II (Revealing The Vision)
      - a. Watching for the Vision (Double Vision)
      - b. Writing the Vision (Go Big or Go Home)
      - c. Waiting on the Vision (Never Give Up)
  - D. Let's now move on to Divine Direction.
    - 1. Vision is the light of where we're going, Direction is the light of how we get there!
      - a. Proverbs 29:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.
      - b. Proverbs 16:25 (AV)<sup>25</sup> There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.
    - 2. Without Vision we Perish and without Direction we Die!
  - E. Once you get the Vision, there is a challenge in finding and staying on the right path to get there.
    - 1. In Matthew 7, Jesus warns us that the way or path that will appeal to us will be wrong and lead ultimately to our death. Many will follow this wrong path and only a few will find the true, narrow path.
    - 2. One of the reasons will be because of false prophets, and the other because self!
    - 3. Matthew 6:9–13 (AV)<sup>9</sup> **After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup>**

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Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

4. Psalm 119:<sup>105</sup> Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet (**Direction**), and a light unto my path (**Vision**).
5. Illustration: Light as Vision, Lamp as Direction, and Lights of Distractions.
6. We must use the lamp of God's word to order our steps to influence the world.

F. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Light of the World III (Ordering Your Steps)

### V. Ordering Your Steps From Temptation to Triumph

A. Psalm 37:<sup>23</sup> The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

B. The first challenge to ordering our steps is Temptations vs. Tribulation

1. The reason why so many people's steps are disordered is because they follow the light of temptations rather than tribulations (or trouble).
2. Temptations are the act of tempting or the state of being tempted especially to evil. It is enticement, attraction, lure, or inducement away from the things of God.
3. 1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
4. These tempting ungodly lights use our carnal desires against us to temp us from the path that God has for us.
5. Matthew 7:<sup>13</sup> **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:**

C. We must order our steps through the path of Tribulations to get to Triumph

1. The path we are to take is the one lighted with Tribulations; that is troubles, distresses, problems, trials, and sufferings
2. Luke 4:2-4 (AV)<sup>2</sup> Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. <sup>3</sup> And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**
3. With the word of God we are able to escape temptations and overcome tribulations
4. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.
5. Psalm 34:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.
6. Matthew 6:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, ...**
7. 2 Corinthians 2:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

D. To be ordered to Triumph, we must be willing to be lead through Tribulations

### VI. Ordering Your Steps From Evil to Good

A. Psalm 37:<sup>24</sup> Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down for the LORD upholdeth *him* with his hand

B. The second challenge to ordering our steps is Evil vs. Evidence

1. It's not that we go looking for evil, but on the wrong path, evil always find us.
2. And when it finds us, we fall.
3. We fall when the flesh within us gives in to the temptations around us.
4. James 1:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

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5. Romans 7:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

C. We must order our steps through the path of Evidence to get to Goodness

1. Hebrews 11:<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

3. Even though we fall, we have the Evidence of Faith in God's Word to deliver us.

4. Proverbs 24:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again:...

5. Matthew 6:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: ...**

6. Romans 12:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

7. Psalm 23:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

D. To be ordered to Goodness, we must be willing to be lead through Goodness.

VII. Ordering Your Steps From Death to Life

A. Psalm 37:23–25 (AV)<sup>23</sup> **The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:** and he delighteth in his way. <sup>24</sup> **Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down:** for the LORD upholdeth *him* with his hand. <sup>25</sup> **I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken,** nor his seed begging bread.

1. The Light of Tribulations Orders our Steps from Temptations to Triumphs

a. 2 Corinthians 2:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

2. The Light of Evidence of our Faith Orders our Steps to Evil to Good

a. Proverbs 24:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again:...

b. Psalm 23:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

B. Finally the Light of Righteousness Orders Our Steps from Death to Life

1. Psalm 37: <sup>25</sup> I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

2. Don't let your sins lead you to death, allow your Destiny to lead you to Life

a. Matthew 6:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

b. Psalm 23:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

c. John 14:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

3. The Light Orders Our Steps from Death to Life

a. Romans 6:23 (AV)<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4. The Light Orders Our Steps from Suffering to Glory

a. Romans 8:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

5. The Light Orders Our Steps Beginning to Ending

a. Jeremiah 29:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

6. The Light Orders Our Steps from Poverty to Blessings

a. Proverbs 10:22 (AV)<sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.