

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

1300 E. Boynton St. • Hamilton • www.parkheightscoc.com

Thus Saith the Lord

JUST ONE CANDLE

By Jeff Sweeten

Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life"* (John 8:12). Simply put, if you do not know which way to go, Jesus will guide you.

During the days of Christ, the lights were not fluorescent nor were they as prolific as they are today. Our flashlights boast X-number of candle power, a measure of luminous intensity. Nevertheless, a person trekking the dark streets of Bethlehem or laboring up the winding, perilous road from Jericho to Jerusalem would usually be limited to one candle... power. Yet still the brightness of that one candle would cut through the darkness and reveal the safe path (Psalm 119:105), exposing the dangers along the way (Ephesians 5:11).

One other facet of candles should be noted: when carrying a candle, one can be seen at a distance (Matthew 5:15). According to those in the know, a candle can be seen some 14 miles away. Therefore, without night-vision goggles, sneaking up on someone had to be a dark-of-the-night maneuver.

Jesus is the light that a Christian will follow and, much like any candle, with it you can light another. Christians are to be lights in a dark world, illuminating, exposing, and guiding. It is not unjust for the Christian to be held to a higher standard of conduct or to expect his or her speech to be a blessing. We are supposed to be a guiding light in a culture of darkness. We should illuminate by our mere presence and people should be able to say of us, "If he or she does or says it, it must be right." We catch fire next to Christ and His divine candle power is so bright that it is hard even to look upon (Exodus 3:6); in fact, when Moses came down off of Mount Sinai, just being in the presence of God caused his face to shine to the point of scaring the Israelites (Exodus 34:29-30).

God's light emits massive candle power and when we incorporate it into our lives, we cannot help but shine.

Jesus does not ask us to be a flood lamp, a beacon or a lighthouse along the shore. One candle can be seen for miles and safely guide. Just one candle... is that so much to ask?

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130