

From the November 4, 2010 Issue

## The Light that Shines in the Darkness

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have enjoyed incredible unity, harmony and peace across past eternity. Life in the Trinity has been a life filled with love and joy. The Great Triune God was filled with joy as the universe came into being and as humanity was created upon the earth. Humanity was destined to partake in such a joyful life. After Adam's sin brought death to all, grace was poured upon all humanity through Jesus. In Jesus we are forever accepted as the beloved adopted children of the Father. It is the will of the Father that all of his beloved children turn to Him and experience life in the Son.

In the year 1994 and again in 1995 I had the opportunity while in Florida to visit a lighthouse on the Atlantic Coast. The lighthouse is located at Ponce De Leon Inlet, Florida—a few miles south of Daytona Beach. On both visits I climbed the stairs inside the lighthouse. When I reached the top I stepped out onto the observation and my fear of heights kicked in. My fear did not remain for long. The view was a spectacular one—it was well worth the climb. I could see for several miles, but more importantly those who were out on the sea could see the lighthouse. It served a very important purpose.

This lighthouse was built in the 1880's and was in service until the year 1970. There is an area of shoals just off shore where many ships across the centuries have wrecked. Lives have been lost here. This lighthouse was built so that those who are on the sea may be able to find their way safely home. For many years this lighthouse served its purpose.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught:

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 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 5:14, NASB*

Jesus was commissioning His disciples with a great purpose. Our lives must stand like a lighthouse in this world of darkness so that our brothers and sisters may find their way safely home. Where does this light come from?

*Then Jesus again spoke to them saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ~ John 8:12, NASB.*

How can we be the light of the world in Matthew and Jesus be the light of the world in John? Because our lives are forever united with the risen Jesus! As we live our lives, the light of the risen Lord Jesus shines in our lives. The light comes from Jesus and shines through our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is seen in the Spirit-filled lives we live. In us, Jesus is glorified and brings glory to His Heavenly Father.

As Jesus rose on that Easter Sunday morning, He rose to forever share His life with you and me. United with Christ, we let His light shine. Jesus is the Great Lighthouse! He is drawing all to Himself. In Jesus all are accepted as the adopted children of God the Father. Yes, the Father is eager

to see all of his precious children come home! There is joy in Heaven every time someone turns in repentance to God! (Luke 15:10).

Dare to be a beacon! Let your light shine so that others may turn to Jesus and experience eternal salvation in Him!

~ *Mark Nelson*