

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

*New Year's Day 2017*

- **Critics are everywhere, and they don't make anything better.**
- **It takes zero intelligence to criticize another person.**
- **Most critics have no credibility with those they criticize.**
- **Technology allows us to criticize everybody all the time.**

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."* John 1:1-5

*"You are the light of the world."* Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

### HOW TO BE LIGHT:

#### 1. **CONNECT TO THE SOURCE OF LIGHT.**

*"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* 1 John 1:7 (ESV)

#### 2. **RESPOND TO NEGATIVITY WITH THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT. (ATTITUDE)**

*<sup>20</sup> So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." <sup>21</sup> And when he had*

*consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:*

*"Praise the LORD,  
For His mercy endures forever."*

*<sup>22</sup> Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

2 Chronicles 20:20-22

(NKJV)

#### 3. **LOVE (verb)**

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)