

Revelation 21:23

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Over the sink in my bathroom is a mirror, and over the mirror there is a light, which houses two lightbulbs. Well, the other day, one of the bulbs burned out, so I replaced just the one bulb that burned out. After I did, I noticed that the new lightbulb and original lightbulb were different colors or hues. One had a slight blue tint to it and looked more like natural lighting, and it reminded me of the clear blue skies in Florida after a rain storm. But the other lightbulb had a yellow tint to it and reminded me of the smog filled skies in California on a hot sunny summer afternoon.

But in your home, you wouldn't notice the difference in the color of the lightbulbs in your house until you start changing them out, then you will see that some have a yellow tint and other have a blue or natural tint to them. Even in the church I go to, it was mentioned how the lighting seemed dingy and dull in the sanctuary. So they replaced all the lightbulbs in the sanctuary with the white bulbs with a blue natural tint to them. It improved the lighting in the church a lot, so much so that people noticed it when they walked in, because it was brighter and more inviting than the dingy yellowish lightbulbs.

In today's verse it says that: "***The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.***" And when I read that I think of how the earth is lit by the light of the sun. But have you ever noticed that the sun has a yellow or even orange color to it? But we go outside on a sunny day, and think how beautiful this blue sky is. That's because all of our lives, we have only seen the world lit up by the sun, a yellow or orange ball of fire. It would be like the church, always lit up with a yellowish bulb. But once the bulbs were changed, things looked so much better and brighter.

So we have the sun with its yellow/orangish light. But we can not even imagine what the pure Light of the Lord will be like, because we have never seen such a pure light.

† **1 John 1:5 (MSG) *This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him.***

But one day we will see the pure light of the Lord when we get to heaven and it will be amazing, like nothing we have ever seen before. We are also told to be a light to the world, and if you think about it, everyone is a light to the world, the question is, what kind of a light are you? The yellow dingy light or the pure blue light?

I remember growing up as a kid and black lights and black light posters were big in the 60's and 70's, because you would have these blacklight posters on your wall and with regular light they

looked ok, but when you turned the lights off and turned the black light on, these colors seemed to pop out, because of the black light. But dark light is not pure light, it's an imitation of real light. But when you have pure light, all the things that appear to be cool in the dark light (this world), now appear to be nothing and worthless.

So are you a reflection of a black light, which is a false light making the things of this world appear to be cool and attractive? Or maybe you are the yellow light, which is light clouded and dimmed by the things of this world. Think of Los Angeles again and the brown skies because of all the smog and pollutants in the air. They turn a beautiful blue sky into a brown light that is not pleasing to the eyes, so much so that it even makes your eyes burn because of all the pollutants in the air.

That's what happens when we try to bring the light of Jesus to others, and letting the things of this world, which are pollutants, to mix into our witness, because we think they make the gospel look better and more attractive. The reality is we are hiding the true Glory of God, with the dull, irritating things of this world. Then we wonder why the world is not attracted to the light that is in us and even our churches. Maybe it's because we pollute it with the things of this world instead of allowing the pure light of Jesus' words to shine on it's own.

The New Year is only a few days away, why not ask the Lord in the New Year to help you be that reflection of the True and Pure light, which is Jesus Christ and ask Him to remove anything that is causing that light to be diminished or dulled.

- † **1 John 1:5** *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*
- † **Matthew 6:22-23** *The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*
- † **Mark 4:19** *and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*
- † **Matthew 5:14** *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*