

SHINING THROUGH

A 5 PART SERIES

*You are **the light** of the world.
A **city** set on a **hill** cannot be hidden.
No one **lights** a **lamp** and puts it under a basket,
but rather on a **lampstand**,
and it **gives light** for **all** who are in the house.
In the same way,
let your **light shine** before others,
so that they may **see** your **good works** (generosity)
and **give glory** (praise) to your **Father** in heaven.*

Matthew 5: 14-16 NIV

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Many *nations* throughout the *world* are facing possibly the *greatest crisis* of their entire history.

Yours (*ours*) may be *one* of these.

What a *tragedy* it would be, in this context of crisis, we *Christians* (The Church) accomplished *nothing*

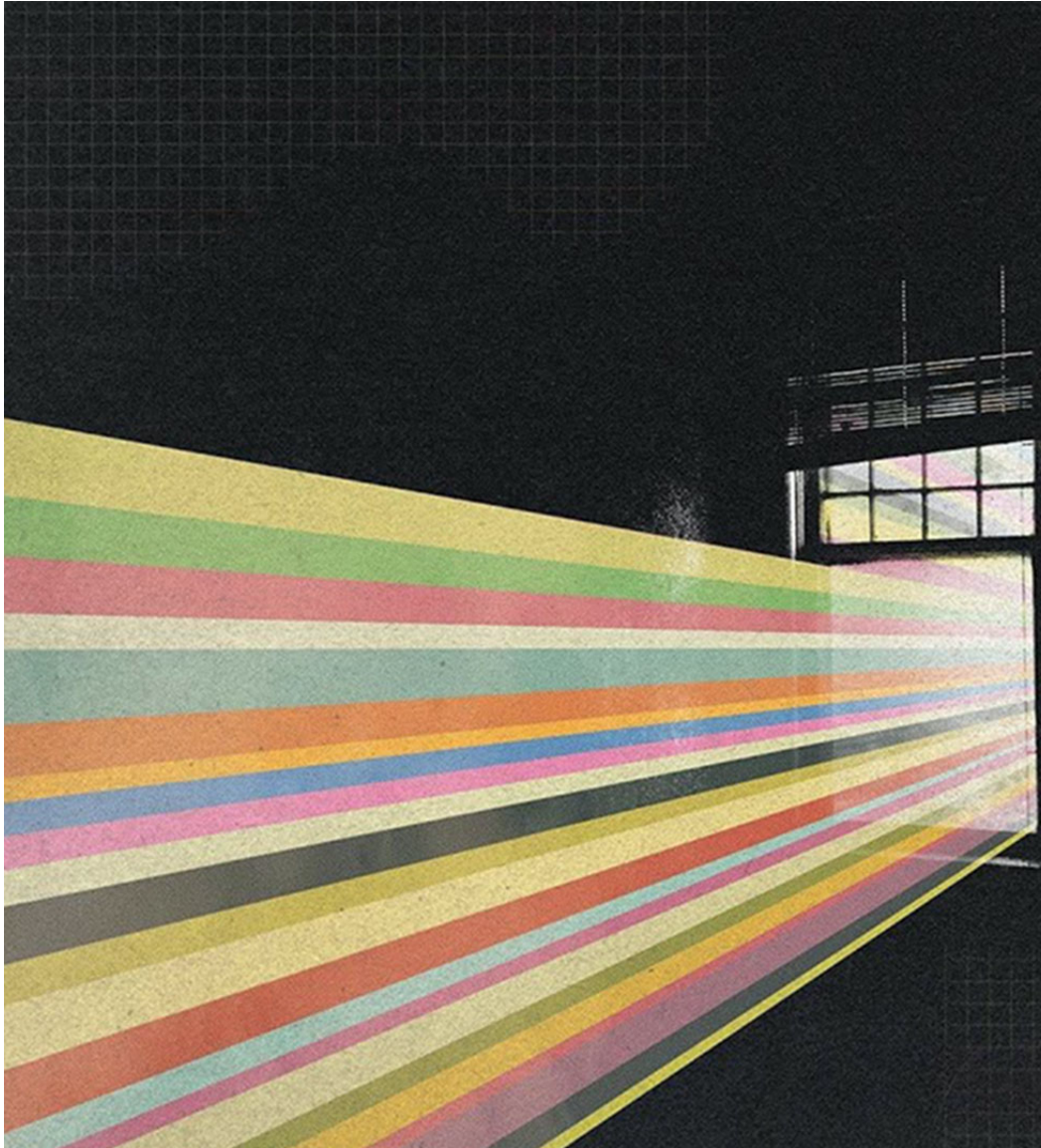
that had any *bearing* or positive *effect*

upon the *needs* of the nations in which *we live!* ...

... what lies within *our power* as Christians – to *change* the course of national events (*crisis*) for the *better*.

Derek Prince: *Living As Salt & Light*

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MESSAGE ONE:
THE BETTER QUESTION

COVID-19 PANDEMIC QUESTIONS

- *Is this the **sign** that the end times and that Jesus is about to **return**?*
- *Is this the beginning of the **end**?*
 - *Is this the **judgement** of God trying to get our nations **attention**?*
- *Is God calling us to **repentance**?*

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WORLD VIEW

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*What questions
should we ask?*

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STEPHEN

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*On that **day** (Stephen's stoning)
a **great persecution** broke out
against the church (**The Way**) in Jerusalem,
and **all** except the apostles were **scattered**
throughout Judea and Samaria. ...
Saul began to **destroy** the church.
Going from house to house,
he **dragged** off both men and women
and put them in **prison**.*

Acts 8:1 & 3 NIV

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*So the **Jesus movement**
ceased to be (stopped moving)
as both its leaders
and the followers of **The Way**
were eventually rounded up
and **executed**.*

Acts 8:4 NIV

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*Those (i.e. The Way)
who had been scattered
preached the word (i.e. gospel)
wherever they went.*

Acts 8:4 NIV

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*But on Saul's way to
putting "The Way"
out of business ...*

Acts 9:1-19 & 22:1-21

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Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. Some of them however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 11: 19-21 NIV

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*During this time **some prophets**
came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
One of them named **Agabus**,
stood up and **through** the Spirit **predicted**
that a **severe famine** would spread over
the **entire Roman world**.
(This **happened** during the reign of Claudius.)*

Acts 11: 27-28 NIV

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*What questions
did they ask?*

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QUESTIONS THEY ASKED

1. Who will be at **risk**?
2. How can we **help**?
3. Who should we **send**?

N.T Wright: *God and the Pandemic*

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*The **disciples** as each one **was able**,
decided to **provide help**
for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.
This they **did**,
sending their **gift**
to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.*

Acts 11: 29-30 NIV

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*What is considered a
virtue to us (i.e. generosity)
was considered a
sign of weakness to them.*

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LAW OF CHRIST

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*Carry (share) each other's
burdens (troubles),
and in this way (by this)
you will fulfill (live out)
the law of Christ (love).*

Galatians 6:2 NIV

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CARITAS

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How can we help?

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3 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What **questions** have you been **asking** as a result of this pandemic? Where is your **focus**?
2. Who is “**at risk**” in and outside our community?
How can we **help**?
Who should we **send** (intersect partners)?
3. How are you fulfilling the **love law** of Christ by **carrying** others burdens? **How** can you **help**?

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