

## “Keeping The Light Burning”

Leviticus 24:1-4

01/11/11

**Introduction:** The purpose of a lighthouse is to provide guidance for ships. The light from the lighthouse enables the ship to avoid dangerous routes in the night. The purpose of a car’s headlights is to show the driver the path ahead and to warn others of an approaching vehicle. In other words, keeping the lights burning has a positive effect. As Christians, we can have the same positive effect on our surroundings (**Philippians 2:15**). The Word of God tells us that we are the light of the world (**Matthew 5:16**). In our lesson tonight, we will focus on keeping our spiritual lights burning for God’s glory.

### Verses 1-2

#### The Purity

Here we see the importance of purity. In verse 1, God is using Moses to speak to the Israelites on His behalf. In the Old Testament, no one could come directly to God and live (**Exodus 33:20**), but in the New Testament, because of Jesus Christ’s righteous sacrifice, believers can come boldly into God’s presence (**Hebrews 4:15-16**). The text says the people were to provide the fuel to maintain the light needed by the High-Priest and his priestly staff in the Holy Place (“they bring”). This tells us that God’s work requires a collaborative effort. It is no one (1) person’s work (**1 Corinthians 3:6-7**). Moses was to tell them that only the best or purest oil was to be used in the lamps. Likewise, God expects us to bring Him the best not the leftovers. God gave His best (Jesus Christ) to us and for us and He expects the same from us. Notice the process of making the pure oil. The text tells us that the olive has to be beaten, which is a process that removes all the impurities. In other words, the purity comes from being crushed. As we apply this to our lives, we cannot expect to exhibit a pure Godly life until we are willing to be crushed, beaten or humbled. Christ made this clear as well. He said unless a kernel of corn dies, it cannot bring about life (**John 12:24**) (**1 Corinthians 15:36**). Apostle Paul says “I die daily”. Likewise, if we desire to lead a pure life, we need to realize that we will be tested/tried so that the impurities will come out of us (**James 1:2-4**). Remember, salvation (conversion) takes only a moment, but sanctification is a lifelong process.

### Verse 3

#### The Continuity

In this verse, we see the continuity. Aaron is to ensure that the lamps will always be kept burning. The phrase “the veil of the testimony” is the veil that divided the tabernacle into two parts: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The Holy of

Holies had the Ark of the Covenant – The Law. When the priest faced the altar, ( in the Holy Place) the lamps would be to his left. Since there were no **windows** in the tabernacle, the lamps were necessary to have the light in the Holy Place so he could minister there. This fact applies to not only the ministers, but to all believers. We cannot expect to minister (serve) the Lord in any **capacity** without allowing His light (The Word of God) to guide and show us the path (**Psalm 119:105**). Aaron was to take care (“order”) of the lamps. That means he must supply them with pure oil, clean the candlestick, snuff them so they will burn clear, and always burn in the presence of the Lord on a daily basis (“from the evening ... the morning”). As Christians, we need to understand that serving God requires work. It takes effort on our part. We should not expect God’s Kingdom, including this church, to grow and be a blessing to us and others without any effort on our part. Remember, we are saved not to sit, but to serve. Notice, God had only called Aaron to take care of the lamps. Likewise, God has called only some of us to the job of overseeing His lambs (sheep) with the Word of God. Remember, all of us are called (to be saved), but only few of us are chosen (anointed) with the task of taking care of His lambs (sheep). As the lamps shine light because of the oil, we shine because of the Holy Spirit (oil). But in order to do that, as Aaron took care of the lamps by cleaning it, we need to allow God to clean and **correct** us through His Word (**2 Timothy 3:16**) (**John 16:7-9**).

#### Verse 4

#### The Authority

Here we see the authority of the priest (“He shall order the lamps”). These lamps were a seven-branch **golden** candlestick. This verse is repeating some of the facts conveyed in verse 3. This includes the fact that Aaron is to continuously “order the lamps...before the Lord”. This repetition conveys to us the importance God placed on the authority as well as the responsibility He placed on Aaron. Here the candlestick is declared **pure** because of its use in the Holy Place. It is always kept clean and is made of gold. Likewise, we have been declared pure and holy by God (**Ephesians 1:4**) (**1 Peter 2:9**). So, are we keeping ourselves clean? We are told to be in the world, but not of the world (**1 Peter 1:15-16**). Have we made ourselves available to be **utilized** for our Master’s use? Let us not be influenced by the world, but become influential in the world. The candlestick had a purpose and was being used solely for that purpose. Are we serving our purpose? We should never let our light go out because someone is living in this dark, dying world trying to make it home (Heaven). Remember, we may be the only **Jesus** people see in this world.

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