

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God's glory shines continually before the world especially as His people gather to worship Him.

Sermon Point: *Your Holy Convocation is a Shining Constellation.*

Move 1: You are Christ's light in this dark world.

Vss. 2, 4: the Church is God's Candlestick (Lampstand) shedding Christ's light in His presence before those lost outside in the Devil's darkness. Ex. 25:31-40: the Menorah in the Holy Place; Ex. 27:20-21: people provided the priests with its oil. The Tabernacle is a shadow/type/pattern of heavenly realities now fulfilled (Ex. 25:9, 26:30; Num. 8:4; Heb. 8:5; Acts. 7:44). 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16: you together *are* the Temple of God and the Holy Spirit. Rev. 1:12-13, 20; 4:5: candlesticks are symbols of *churches* bearing Christ's light. Zech. 4:11/Rev. 11:4: olive tree oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit fueling your flame. *You* are where God's presence dwells and shines. John 8:12; 9:5; Mat. 5:14-16.

Move 2: Your light shines brighter as you gather together to worship Jesus.

Church Worship, now serving. "Sons of Israel" (vs. 1) supply the pure, beaten oil to keep the lamp lighting the Tabernacle "continually/forever", from evening to morning, in every generation: vss. 2-4. Christ is the Lampstand; it has seven branches. Where is the Menorah? Vs. 3: in the Tabernacle of the congregation; in the Holy Place before the veil to the Most Holy Place (regular priestly service); "before the Lord" (vss. 3, 4). God's presence shines brightest in the regularly gathered worship service of His people. Daniel 12:3; 2 Cor. 4:6)

Conclusion:

... be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights [stars] in the world; (Phil. 2:15)

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