

Church of God

Sunday School



THE TABERNACLE #6 – THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK

DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** Keeping the light burning requires maintenance (Exodus 27:20; 30:7; Hebrews 2:3).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** There are things that will try to blow out your light (Ephesians 4:14; Proverbs 3:5).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** The lampstand represents Jesus and His church (1 Corinthians 12:18; Revelation 1:13).
- ❑ **Thursday:** Beware of Satan's bushels that put out the light (Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 11:33).
- ❑ **Friday:** The high cost of the Candlestick and of God's church (Exodus 25:39; Isaiah 52:14; Acts 20:28).
- ❑ **Saturday:** The world needs to see the light (John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6).

MEMORY VERSE: *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*
—Matthew 5:16

Light Reveals Obstacles

The journey from the Wilderness of Sin to the Gate and through the outer court teaches how to *get* saved. Lessons from the Tabernacle Proper and its furnishings teach how to *stay* saved. The Tabernacle had no windows to let light in. God's plan for the Golden Candlestick in the first room ensured there was *always* light inside. Just as literal light shows us where we are going and keeps us from tripping over unseen obstacles, spiritual light ("understanding"; Psalm 119:130) reveals anything that could cause us to fall. In the Tabernacle Proper (representing the Church of God), the light (understanding God's Word) is bright! That is why attending worship services is important (Hebrews 10:25). Hearing the Word taught and preached reveals spiritual obstacles the enemy uses to try to make us fall.

Light Requires Maintenance

Every morning, the priests maintained the lamps by adding oil so that the light never went out (Exodus 27:20). Today, when we are saved, we are "priests" (Revelation 1:6). To keep the spiritual light burning in our lives, there is maintenance we must do. Staying saved requires us to read and study the Bible and to pray. How often? The Old Testament priests maintained the lamps *every morning*. Can we do any less? The priests also trimmed the wicks ("dressed"; Exodus 30:7) by removing the burnt edges to make the light brighter. In our Christian walk, as we read God's Word and talk to Him, He shows us things that are causing our lights to become dim. We cannot "neglect" the daily care of our "great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3).



Candlestick

What the Lampstand Represents

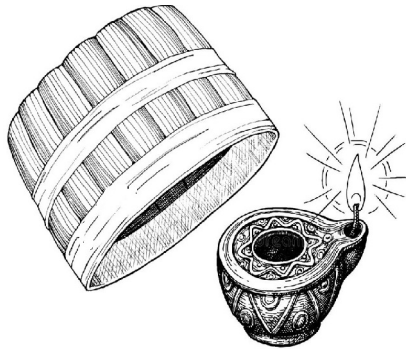
The Hebrew word for "candlestick" actually means *lampstand*. A candlestick can easily be blown out by the wind, but an oil-fed lamp is harder to put out. Ephesians 4:14 warns us not to be "carried about with every wind of doctrine." People like that are affected by ideas or doctrines (spiritual teachings) that do not come from God's Word. Just as an oil-fed lamp is not easily affected by a blowing wind, we must depend on God for the oil to keep our lamps burning (John 15:5). When we "lean not unto [our] own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5) or on people's wrong beliefs, we are less likely to lose our light (salvation).



Lampstand

The lampstand had one shaft (the center part), "and six branches [came] out of the sides of it" (Exodus 25:32). At the top of each (the shaft and the branches) were "lamps" (for a total of seven). Lamps represent our experience of salvation (Isaiah 62:1). When we are saved, we become a light to others (Matthew 5:16). God wants His people to be united because when our lights shine together, they produce a great light! It is not God's will that we be alone. So God places us "*in the body*, as it hath pleased him" (1 Corinthians 12:18).

The "body" of Christ is "the church" (Colossians 1:24)—the Church of God. There are "many members [lamps], yet but one body [lampstand]" (1 Corinthians 12:20). Just as no measurements were given for the literal lampstand, the Church of God is "a great multitude, which no man could number" (Revelation 7:9).



A Candle Placed Under a Bushel

In Matthew 5:15, Jesus warned about lighting a candle and placing it under a bushel. Often at night, people would cover a candle with a basket if they wanted darkness in their homes. If the basket was left there, the light eventually went out. This shows what happens to our experience of salvation if we hide our light. The devil will provide the bushel.

The devil has many bushels. He will try to separate you from other Christians. He will send discouragement. He will tell you to skip church services, Sunday school, or youth meetings. He will send confusion through false ideas and doctrines. He will tell you that the outward standard does not matter. These will extinguish your lamp if you allow your light to come under these "bushels." The children's song says: "*Hide it under a bushel—NO! I'm gonna to let it shine!*"

The Lampstand Was "One Beaten Work of Pure Gold"

PURE GOLD: The Candlestick (lampstand) was made "of a talent of pure gold" (Exodus 25:39). A "talent" was about 94 pounds. In 2024, the price of gold was \$2,327.44 (per ounce). Multiply that by 16 (ounces in a pound), and you will get \$37,239.04. Then, multiply that by 94 pounds for a total of \$3,500,469.76. That is the approximate cost of building a pure gold lampstand today. Compare that to the cost of the church, which was purchased at a far GREATER COST! Acts 20:28 says Jesus purchased "the church of God ... with his own blood."

BEATEN WORK: The words "beaten work" (Exodus 37:17) mean that the shape of the gold was changed. Part of the great cost included Jesus being "scourged [beaten with whips]" (Matthew 27:26). Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah (Jesus): "His visage [face] was so marred [damaged, disfigured] more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men" (Isaiah 52:14). Isaiah 53:5 adds, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities." The lampstand made of "one beaten work" represents how the church was produced through the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

ONE: The word "one" represents the unity of God's people. To continue shining as "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14), we must have unity with (1) Christ (the central shaft) and (2) other Christians (other lamps). When division works and Christians separate from each other, the light grows dim. Often, it completely goes out. This is not God's will. Jesus prayed that we "be one" (in unity) as He and God the Father are one (John 17:11).

The World Needs Your Light!

It is important that we "walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). If we are embarrassed to dress, talk, and act like Christians, we are placing our lamps under a bushel. How will the world see the way to God if our lights are hidden? Just as a burning lamp is noticeable in a dark room, the Christian's light will draw the attention of those living in spiritual darkness.

We might be made fun of or criticized, but there are people searching for light. God's people are part of the "city that is set on an hill [and] cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Bible Quiz

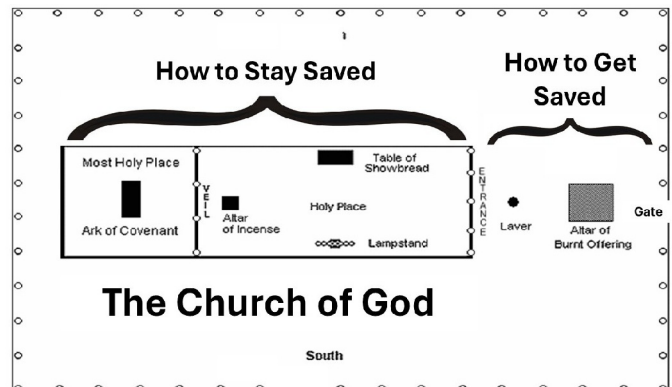


1. Psalm 119:130 says light is _____
2. The Tabernacle Proper represents _____
3. To keep the lamps shining, the priests added _____ and trimmed the _____ daily.
4. What is the Hebrew word for "candlestick"? _____
5. What is the difference between a candlestick and a lampstand? _____

6. What does Isaiah 62:1 say lamps represent? _____
7. When we are saved, we become a _____ to others (Matthew 5:16).
8. Who is the body of Christ? _____
9. What happens to lamps that are placed under a bushel? _____
10. What is one example of a "bushel" Satan uses to try to put out your light? _____

11. What price did Jesus pay to purchase the Church of God? _____
12. What does the lampstand made of "one beaten work" represent? _____

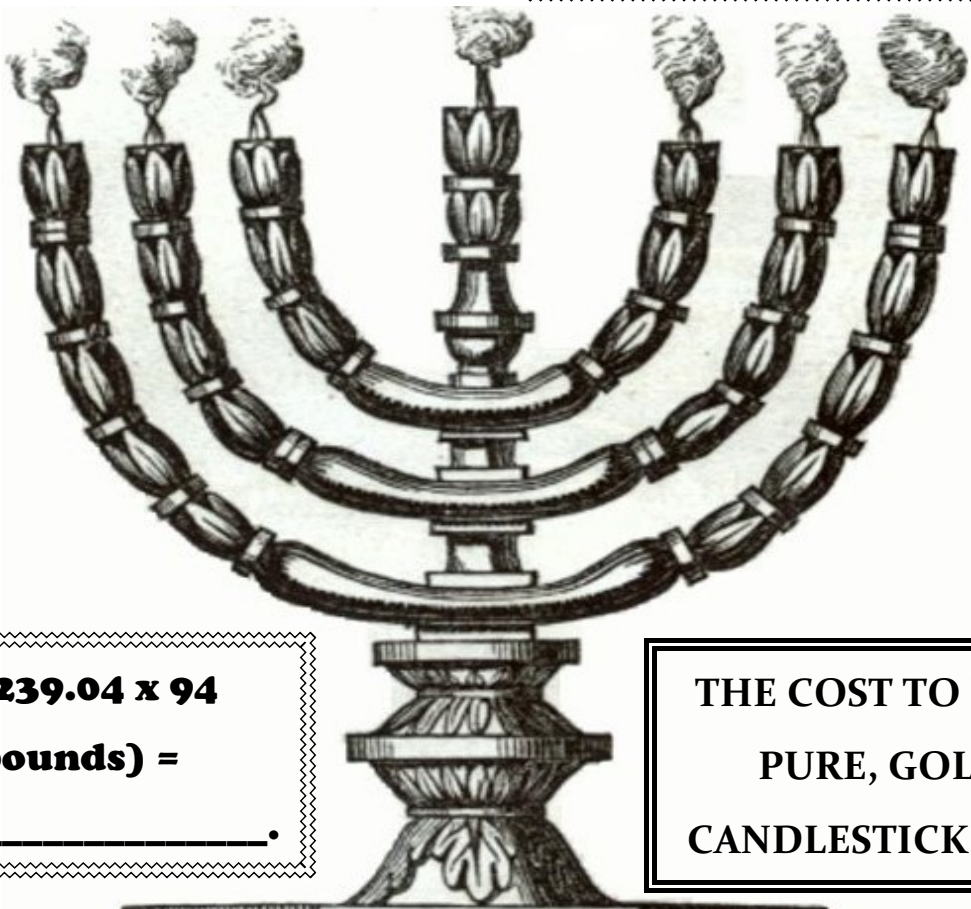
13. What are some ways you can "walk as children of light"? _____



MADE OF PURE GOLD

A talent is about _____ pounds.

Price of gold (2024):
\$2,327.44 (ounce) x 16 = _____ (for 1 pound).



\$37,239.04 x 94
(pounds) =
\$ _____.

THE COST TO MAKE A
PURE, GOLDEN
CANDLESTICK TODAY!

**The Church of God was purchased
at a GREAT COST!**

"In the Old Testament, the New is hidden; in the New Testament, the Old lies open."