

**A CITY ON A HILL /// A CITY THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN
A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**

LIFE



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¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

**A CITY ON A HILL /// A CITY THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN
A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

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WHOSE SIDE

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Us vs. Them is never the mentality of the Kingdom of God

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

**A CITY ON A HILL /// A CITY THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN
A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



15 The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



Since the beginning of humanity, we have been vying for God to take our side in disputes and therefore relegating Him to someone under our command rather than the one who commands us.

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



Jehovah will take part in this conflict, not as an ally or an adversary, but as commander-in-chief. It is not Israel's quarrel, in which they are to ask the Divine assistance. It is the Lord's own quarrel, and Israel and Joshua are but a division in His host. The wars of Israel in Canaan are always

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



presented by the Old Testament as “the wars of the Lord.” It would be well to remember this aspect of the story. The conquest of Canaan is too often treated as an enterprise of the Israelites, carried out with great cruelties, for which they claimed the Divine sanction. The Old Testament

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



presents the matter in an entirely different light. The war is a Divine enterprise, in which human instruments are employed, but so as to be entirely subordinate to the Divine will. Jehovah is not for Israel, nor for Israel's foes. He fights for His own right hand, and Israel is but a fragment of His army.

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



Life Church will be a people who aid in the restoration and reconciliation of the people around us

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1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To
Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, 2 to the beloved
Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your
house:

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. 4 I thank my God, making mention
of you always in my prayers,

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



5 hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, 6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE



7For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because
the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.
8Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command
you what is fitting,

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE



9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as
Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ— 10 I
appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while
in my chains, 11who once was unprofitable to you, but now is
profitable to you and to me.

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



12I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, 13whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. 14But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



15For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you
might receive him forever, 16no longer as a slave but more than a
slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to
you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

A CITY ON A HILL /// A CITY THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN
A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE



17 If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. 18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. 19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay—not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides. 20 Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord.

**A CITY ON A HILL /// A CITY THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN
A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



1. Paul had enough equity in his relationships that he could speak as an authority (v. 1,8)

**A CITY ON A HILL /// A CITY THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN
A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



2. Though he has the authority to command, Paul in humility makes a request (v.9)

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A PEOPLE CALLED LIFE**



3. Paul lays down what he could gain from the situation for the greater scope of restoration (v.14-15)

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A PEOPLE**



4. Paul offers restitution on behalf of someone he is not responsible for (v.18)

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5. Paul uses his favor for the benefit of another (v.19)

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