



The Greatest Need for 2008 ENCORE Discussion

1. **Many of us have been exposed to this passage time and again. Let's look at it once more, using this paraphrase:**

"You are here to be light to those around you. And when shining out from a clear glass vessel, your light *will* be noticed in this dark world! God doesn't give us the light of Christ within just so we can hide away in a closet somewhere, useless, without purpose. Instead, as we allow His light in us to pierce the darkness, from the high places, by walking in His Spirit, it *will* accomplish His plans. So this is our goal: to keep our life-lamp clean, without blemish, so the light of Christ can shine out to others through us, and many come to know and love our heavenly Father as a result..."

Does this expanded imagery help you see the importance of our calling to be light in this dark world? If so, how?

2. **What are potential "smudges" to the clear glass life-lamp God desires us to be? List four sins and two cultural attitudes or areas of wrong thinking (one per person, please), and tell how each is a potential smudge that blurs our light for Christ.**
3. **With a new pastor, the time for unity and selflessness among body members is paramount; it's time to dust off our lamps within the body so we're ready to shine outside these four walls. Discuss why the following attitudes must be embraced if Blair Ridge Baptist Church is to accomplish God's goals in the coming months and years.**
 - a. Seek God's agenda, not our own (some choose a small church primarily to further their own plans for ministry, usually to the detriment of the unity of the body); how can we assure we are seeking God's will and not our own?
 - b. Strive for mutual accountability (an openness to constructive instruction when our lives and ministries are observed); how do we accomplish this?
 - c. Work to make a difference, while shunning indifference, having a "don't care" attitude; how do we manage this?