

Revelation 1:12-13 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man...

Revelation 1:20b The mystery of the...seven golden candlesticks. The...seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

THE LAMPSTAND'S OIL AND LIGHT

Exodus 27:20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

God's people will bring the oil.

The lamps will have oil in them for their fuel.

The oil is so the lamp can burn, giving light.

What does the oil symbolize?

lampstand (including lamps) = church in Jesus Christ/ Christ in church

oil = ?

light from lamps = ?

The symbolism is explained in the story of the anointing of the king of Israel by Samuel.

The Case of David

1 Samuel 16:1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of **oil** and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the **Spirit of the LORD** came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

What was poured on him? - oil

What came upon him? - the Spirit of the Lord

So, oil = the Spirit of the Lord

The Case of Saul

1 Samuel 9:27-10:1 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God." (10:1) Then Samuel took a flask of **oil** and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"

1 Samuel 10:6 Then the **Spirit of the LORD** will come upon you, and you will **prophesy** with them and be turned into another man.

1 Samuel 10:10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the **Spirit of God** came upon him, and he **prophesied** among them.

What was poured on him? - oil

What came upon him? - the Spirit of the Lord

The Holy Spirit coming upon him, what did it make him do? - prophesy; that is, speak the Word of God

oil = Spirit of God

light = prophesying; prophecy

So, at this point we could say:

The lampstand holds oil; the oil burns to produce light.

The lampstand is the church in Christ, Christ in the Church

The oil is the Holy Spirit

The light of the lamps is what the Holy Spirit causes the church to produce: the Word of God

The church in Jesus Christ is filled with the Holy Spirit, who causes the church to proclaim the Word of God.

Let's check this

2 Peter 1:19-21 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; (20) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, (21) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

light - prophetic word

prophetic word = Scripture - moved by the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 60:1-3 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. (2) For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. (3) The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

The Gentiles shall come to your light.

-What does that mean, literally: the gentiles shall hear the Word of God preached by God's people, and shall see it lived out in their lives, and they will believe in Christ.

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor 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. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

So, what the Holy Spirit causes the church to produce is not the Word of God only, but also the good works that accompany the Word of God.

JRY: The lampstand's oil is the Holy Spirit of Christ at work in His church, giving power for the church to proclaim the word of God and believe the word of God and obey the word of God

The lampstand symbolizes the Church, with the Lord Jesus in it by His Spirit, causing the church to believe, proclaim, and obey His Word.

Providing the oil for the lamps

Leviticus 24:1-4 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: (2) "Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually. (3) Outside the veil of the Testimony, in the tabernacle of meeting, Aaron shall be in charge of it from evening until morning before the LORD continually; it shall be a statute forever in your generations. (4) He shall be in charge of the lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD continually.

Announce Zechariah 4

Background

Idolatrous Kings, Priests, and People (2 Chronicles 36:11-16)

God sends Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chronicles 36:17-21)

-This is called the Babylonian exile

-So we say "pre-exilic" and "post-exilic"

Conquest of Babylon by the Medo-Persian empire (Dan 5:30-31)

The 70 years almost over, Daniel prayed to God for the people to return to Jerusalem (Daniel 9:1-2; 17)

Cyrus---His policy (Ezra 1:1-4)

The people return to build the temple (Ezra 3:10-11)

Opposition by the Samaritans (Ezra 4:1-24)

Preaching by Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 5:1)

520 B.C.

Building re-commences under the leadership of Zerubbabel

Zechariah 4:1-7 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. (2) And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. (3) Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." (4) So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" (5) Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." (6) So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. (7) 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

4:2 See that there is a plumbing system to bring oil to the lamps from a reservoir, and the reservoir is filled directly from two olive trees (ref. verse 12)

4:4 Zechariah asks what this plumbing system for fueling the lamps represents
-in this answer we find more help understanding what was meant by the lampstand in the tabernacle all along

4:6-7 See that Zerubbabel is building God's temple not with human strength, but by the power of God's Spirit, so that no obstacle will be big enough to stop him

Zechariah 4:8-10 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: (9) "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. (10) For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it, til the day of Christ.

APPLICATION from Calvin:

there is no reason why the church should turn its eyes here and there for help from men; for all abundance of blessings may be supplied by God alone . . . we are very foolish, when we look around us here and there, or vacillate, or when . . . various hopes, and fears, and anxieties affect us; for we ought to be so dependent on God alone, as to be fully persuaded that his grace is sufficient for us . . . we ought fully to confide in God alone, though poverty and want may surround us on every side.

2 Timothy 1:8-2:3 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, (9) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, (10) but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, (11) to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. (12) For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. (13) Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (14) That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. (15) This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. (16) The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; (17) but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. (18) The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day--and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus. (2:1) You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (3) You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

What is the situation?

1:8 Christians tempted to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord because Paul in prison, and those who profess Christ subject to imprisonment and other kinds of suffering
it is not socially acceptable to identify with Paul and his doctrine of Jesus Christ
it is not even legal; you can go to prison or even be executed for it
1:12b Paul not ashamed
1:15 Many Christians, possibly pastors, have turned away from Paul
1:16 Some faithful men not turning away

What does Paul say should be done?

1:8b Share with me in the sufferings for the gospel
1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me
in faith
in love
both of which are in Christ Jesus
1:14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep

2:2 the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses,
commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also

How can that be done?

1:8c according to the power of God
1:14b by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us
2:1 in the grace that is in Christ Jesus

Just right in this passage, what is the pattern of sound words?

2 Timothy 1:8c-10 God, (9) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, (10) but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

God has saved us

God has called us with a holy calling

Ephesians 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

He did not do this according to our works

He did it according to His own purpose

He did it according to His own grace

His grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began

His grace has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ has abolished death

Jesus Christ has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel for that gospel, Paul was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles

