

# Safely Home

Picture yourself steering a ship on the ocean. Your ship is heading to shore. It's night time – and the coast is rocky and hazardous. You're anxious. Then, in the darkness, a bright light is visible – a **Lighthouse** – and it guides you safely to shore. Whew! If not for that beacon (the light), your ship – and you with it – might not have survived.



Lighthouses warn seafarers of hazards such as rocky coasts or dangerous shallows, and guide voyagers safely to their destinations. They are located on coastlines, or islands, or in the middle of busy harbours. Their distinctive flash patterns of light communicate **life-saving warnings** to seafarers:

**KEEP AWAY DANGER WATCH OUT**

**COME THIS WAY**



The light must be visible from afar. In 1821, the ingenious **Fresnel lens** was invented. It used glass prisms to collect & concentrate the light, allowing its detection from very great distances. It's been called "**the invention that saved a million ships**".

There are also the **lighthouse keepers** – people who maintain the lighthouse. The keeper does not actually turn on the lights, but ensures that the lighthouse and its outbuildings are kept in good shape – even scrubbing slimy lighthouse steps! A lighthouse keeper has to be **handy, dependable, and able to work** in isolated and often very lonely conditions.

But modern times have brought changes... and lighthouses aren't as plentiful as they once were.

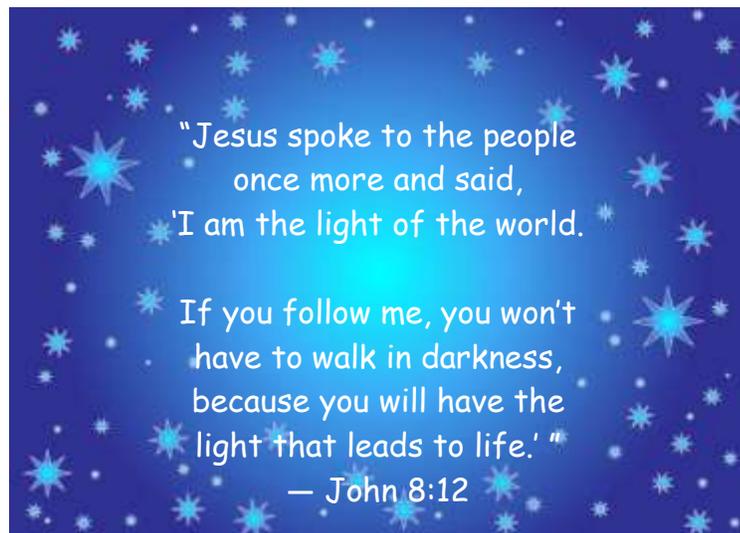
Today's **electronic navigation systems** mean that powerful lights aren't used as much as before. Rather, there are more **minor lights & lighted buoys**. While many lighthouses still guide mariners, additional technologies – such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), nautical charts, lighted navigational aids, buoys, and radar beacons – are increasingly used to warn mariners of dangerous spots and guide them safely to harbor.

Despite the new systems, most mariners and fishermen still like the lighthouse as a **backup** for electronic equipment. After all, sophisticated equipment can (and does) fail.

Fewer lighthouses also means less demand for lighthouse keepers. And the lighthouses that do remain tend to be automatically controlled.

So while light and guidance systems are still needed, the **means & methods** have changed greatly.

*The Lord Jesus  
Christ had  
something to say  
about light and  
guidance...*



When Jesus came to earth about 2,000 years ago, He warned that there is a **Judgment** coming to all persons: Some will go to **Heaven** to spend eternity with God, and others to the hazards and punishments of **Hell**.

Only those who trust in Jesus will be brought to Heaven's **safe shore**. He is the **true & only light** that guides each of us to that destination.

Jesus fills us with His light when we ask Him into our heart and follow Him. We become like lighthouses that shine His light out to others who are trying to find their way. Without that light, people are headed for peril.



Jesus' light is housed in different kinds of people – just as sea navigation uses different kinds of systems.

**He equips each of us** in distinctive ways: some are powerful in manner, others are quieter servants like those smaller buoys on the sea. But we can all be used by the Lord.

It's not the splendour of the lighthouse that matters, but the excellence of the light itself. Jesus' **perfect light** may be entrusted to big or small vessels, and even transformed in ways only God can perform. The goal is always to help, guide, warn – and bring people to safety in the Lord Jesus.

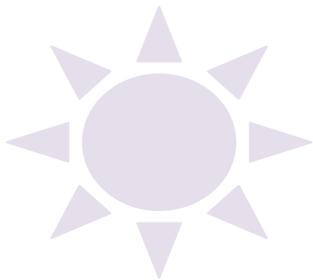
## *Keepers at work...*

We who belong to Jesus also do the diligent work of the **lighthouse keepers**, maintaining a clean & holy lifestyle, clearing away lies and debris that may cause others to trip and fall, and helping those in trouble.

This work can seem lonely at times.

*But the Lord is always seeking such workers!*

May you be such a worker, a faithful 'house' for Christ's light who can help lead others to Jesus... and safely home!



*"He led them straight to safety, to a city where they could live." — Psalm 107:7*