

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path." Psalm
119:105*

In the days before electricity and flashlights, it was common to use earthenware oil lamps held suspended by cords near the feet. It would provide light for the path a few steps in advance. Holding the lamp near the feet kept the illumination out of the eyes and on the path. Stones and hollows in the



path would cast sharp shadows and be clearly visible to the traveler. It was important to keep the way illuminated, because it had been prepared ahead of time for walking. It was easier going than the surrounding area, but to be followed it had to be illuminated. It's amazing how much light an oil lamp can provide once your eyes have adjusted to the night. The lamp does not illuminate the whole path, just the next few steps. I don't need to fret about what's going to happen tomorrow, because it may never come. I need to be concerned about today, and where my next few steps will be. If I follow the path laid out in God's Word, and do what's right, right now, I will arrive safely at my heavenly destination. If my steps are all in the right place, my journey will be successful. Each step is just as important as the ones before it and the ones after it. If just one step is slightly skewed, all the ones that follow will be slightly skewed unless a correction is made. This is where illumination comes into the picture. It lets me know where I've misstepped so that I may correct my next step. God's Word will warn me of the stones in my path so I need not stumble, but I must keep a sharp watch. I must meditate therein day and night. I must look where the Light is. I must keep my Lamp trimmed and bright. We must let our lamps illuminate the path for those that follow us, whose lamps are empty. We must tell them where to fill their lamps so that they may be able to see and not lose their way.

*"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*

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 2 Corinthians 4:3