

COMPILED BY
ROBERT MCCONNELL



"God is light, and in him is no darkness at all..." 1 John 1:5

Donaghadee Light House

Two hundred years ago, before Belfast harbour was fully developed and with mainland Scotland only 20 miles away, Donaghadee was the main port for the whole eastern side of the Province. All that business however has now diminished and all that remains from those bygone days is the harbour and the lighthouse.

In this article, I want you to consider some spiritual lessons in relation to the lighthouse at Donaghadee. The most obvious of these, for the Christian, is the need to shine brightly for the Lord in a world full of danger, darkness and sin. Just as the Lord Jesus is the Light of the world and His Word is to be a light unto our path, we too, are to let our light shine before men for no doubt many will perish in their sin unless we warn them of the danger that they are in.

Donaghadee lighthouse was built in 1836, and has, for 64 years, stood firm against all manner of storms and raging seas, warning sailors of all the dangers down along that part of the coast. However, on the 12th May 1900, this strong lighthouse was almost destroyed from within. Due to the careless handling of the paraffin used to illuminate old lighthouses, a fire broke out

inside the lighthouse damaging both the magnifying glass and the lantern. For months the lighthouse was rendered ineffective and a temporary light had to be used until everything was put right again. Like this lighthouse, we as Christians are to be strong in the face of opposition... strong in the Lord, not just outwardly but inwardly too. Just as that fire took hold in Donaghadee lighthouse all those years ago, you need to be careful in case some old sinful behaviour takes hold of your life. Always watch for anything that might tarnish your testimony and cause your light of service to be diminished.

Some years after that fire, Donaghadee lighthouse was converted to electricity, the first in Ireland to do so and what a change that made. Its illumination increased some twentyfold causing it to be of even greater use than ever before. Perhaps, thus far in life, you haven't been shining very brightly for the Lord. I would urge you therefore to put away anything that you have allowed into your life and seek God's face for an infilling of the power of the Holy Spirit to make you what you ought to be - a true beacon of light for God and a warning signal to all that know not the danger they are in. ■



Using the words of 1st John 1v5, complete the word search below. There will be one word left over. That word will be the answer to the quiz.

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PRIZES!

Are you 12 or under?
Send your answer, name,
address and church to:

Rev Garth Wilson

Email: answer@fpvision.org
39 Millreagh Ave, Dundonald,
Belfast, BT16 1TZ

£5 WINNERS LAST TIME

- » Lydia Burke (Markethill)
- » Luke Graham (Mourne)
- » Hannah McClung (Clogher Valley)
- » Ben McQueen (Cookstown)
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- » Sarah Higginson (Coleraine)
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ANSWER: