

Christians Are to Be the Light of the World  
(Matthew 5:14-16)

Introduction:

1. This morning we showed from the Scriptures that "Jesus brought light into a world of darkness" (Matthew 4:12-16).
2. This evening we are turning our attention to the Lord's followers.
3. According to the Scriptures, "Christians are to be the light of the world."

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST EXAMINE THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT JESUS GAVE IN MATTHEW 5:14-16
  - A. Jesus included these instructions in His Sermon on the Mount.
  - B. He began His Sermon by giving the Beatitudes (vs.3-12), showing how people in various categories will be blessed.
  - C. After giving the Beatitudes, Jesus showed how His followers are to have a positive influence in the world.
    1. He first identified His followers as *"the salt of the earth"* (13).
    2. He continued by identifying His followers as *"the light of the world."*
      - a. We are to let our lights shine before others.
      - b. We do this through our good works (Galatians 6:9-10).
      - c. Our good works may influence someone to glorify God.
- II. LET US ALSO EXAMINE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS
  - A. Romans 13:12-14
    1. Vs.12 teaches us to *"cast off the works of darkness"* and *"put on the armor of light."*
    2. We learn from vs.13&14 what this involves.
  - B. Ephesians 5:8-14
    1. Before a person becomes a Christian he is described as *"darkness."*
    2. A Christian's spiritual condition is described as *"light in the Lord."*
    3. Christians are responsible for walking *"as children of light."*
    4. Walking as children of light includes bearing *"the fruit of the Spirit"* (9 special characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23).
    5. We must use caution concerning our associates.
  - C. Philippians 2:14-16
    1. The Lord's people are to *"shine as lights in the world."*
    2. To accomplish this we must *"do all things without murmurings and disputings"* and hold *"forth the word of life."*
  - D. 1 John 1:7
    1. God's people are to *"walk in the light as He is in the light."*
    2. Those who walk in the light as God is in the light:
      - a. have fellowship with Him
      - b. are continually cleansed by the Lord's blood.

Conclusion:

1. In the beginning the world needed light, and God provided it.
2. The world needed spiritual light, and Jesus provided it.
3. The world needs light today, and the Lord's people are to provide it.
4. The Scriptures clearly teach that "Christians are to be the light of the world."
5. Thankfully, the Scriptures also teach us how to fulfill this responsibility.