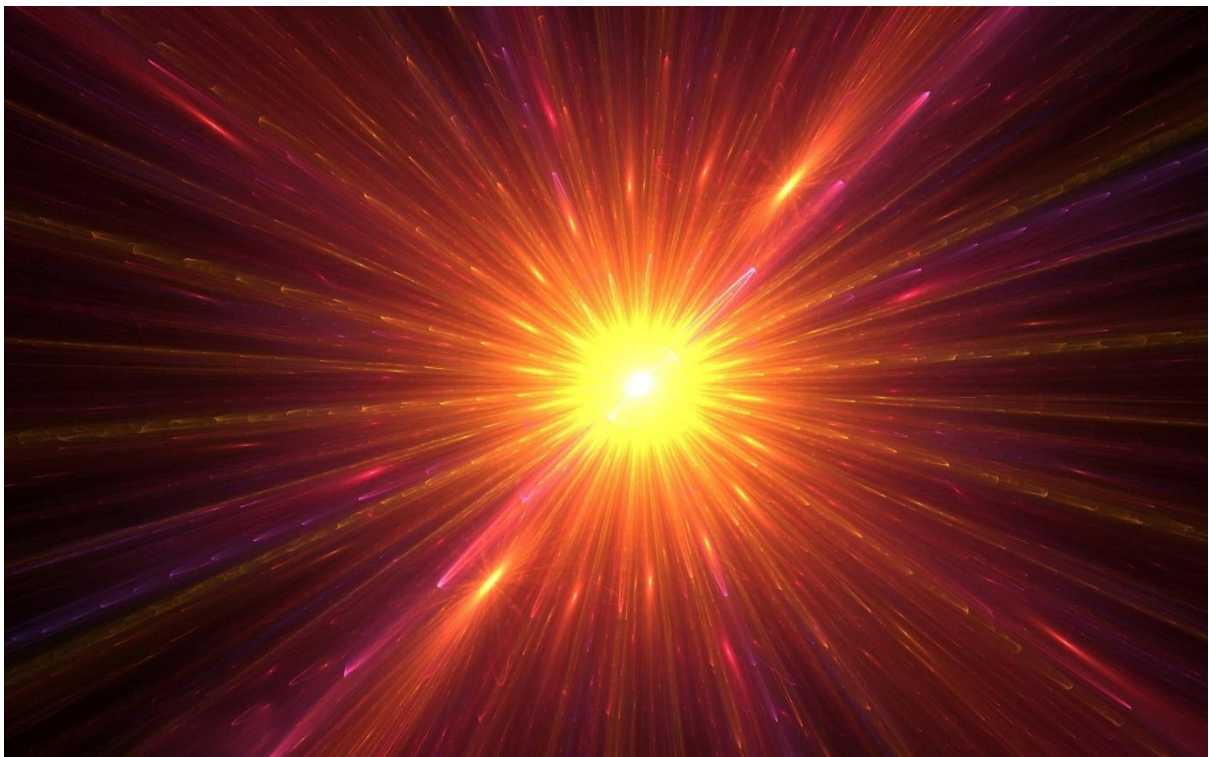


Jesus gives “New Title” to the believers (Church)-Part 2

Concord Community Church

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Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven”.





“God is light” (1 Jn.1:5). Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (Jn.8:12; 9:5). Here in Matthew, Jesus says, “You are the light of the world”. We are what God and Christ are: light. No greater compliment could be given to the believers. But note: to be identified with God and Jesus is an enormous responsibility as well as a compliment. Whatever light is and does, we are to be and do. We are going to look at this subject under the following headings:

1. The disciple’s character: Light (v.14).
2. The disciple’s place to shine (live and minister): The world (v.14).
3. The disciple’s unavoidable witness (v.15).
4. The disciple’s purpose (v.16).

1. The disciple’s character: Light.

The disciple’s character is light. Christ said, “I am the Light of the world” (Jn.8:12; 9:5). Here He says His disciples are to be like Him—the light of the world. Believers are to undergo a radical transformation: we are to become like Christ more and more and to reflect the light of Christ (2 Co.3:18; 4:6–7). Light is and does several things:

➤ **Light is clear and pure.** It is clean, that is, good, right, true.

For at one time, you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true). (Ep.5:8–9)

➤ **Light penetrates.** By nature, it cuts through and eliminates darkness.

For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. (1 Th.5:5)

➤ **Light enlightens.** It enlarges a person’s vision and knowledge of an area.

So, Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.” (Jn.12:35)

➤ **Light reveals.**

It opens up the truth of an area, a whole new world, and it clears up the way to the truth and the life.

“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. (Jn.12:36)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (Jn.14:6)

➤ **Light guides.**

It directs the way to go, leads along the right path. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (Jn.12:46)

➤ **Light strips away darkness.**

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (Jn.3:19–20)

➤ **Light defeats and dispenses chaos.**

That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. (Ph.2:15)

➤ **Light discriminates between the right way and the wrong way.**

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (Jn.8:12)

➤ **Light warns.** It warns of dangers that lie ahead in a person’s path.

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Ep.5:11–14)

➤ **Light protects.** It protects people from the dangers of darkness, from stumbling, falling, and injuring themselves.

The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. (Ro.13:12)

Thought 1. Believers are now the light of the world. Jesus said, ***“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (Jn.9:5).*** Jesus is no longer in the world, not bodily. His light is now in the lives of believers. We are to be reflections of Him.

Thought 2. A person’s light is only a reflective light. He/she reflects the light of the Lord. ***For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Ep.5:8)***

Thought 3. The character of light is pure. Therefore, to walk in light is to walk in purity.

That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. (Ph.2:15).

2. The disciple's place to shine (live and minister): The world.

The place where believers are to shine is the world. This world is where we are to move about and reflect our light (live and minister). Why is light so desperately needed? The answer is, because the world is . . . • unclear • in chaos • stumbling • in darkness • groping • in trouble • falling • in danger • unseeing • indiscriminating • unaware.

Note in this verse that the light is in the world: the city is in the world, and the lamp is in the home. The same is true of believers: believers occupy some place in the world. Wherever that place is, wherever we are, we are to let our light shine.

Thought 1. “You are the light!” The world has no other light. We are it—the light. Therefore, the light is to be placed where its influence can be best used and felt. What a lesson for believers in our lives and work and play! Every community, city, state, and nation—the whole world—is to be illuminated by the light of believers.

For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Ac.13:47)

That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. (Ph.2:15)

3. The disciple's unavoidable witness.

Jesus gave two illustrations of the believer's light. Both of these images convey the same truth: we are to make sure our light is easily seen by those around us. Our witness is to be unavoidable.

a. Is like a city on a hill (v.14). First, Jesus said that our light is to be like a city on a hill. Two things are said about the city: it sits on a hill, and it cannot be hidden.

b. Is like a candle set on a lampstand (v.15). Second, Jesus said that our light is to be like a lamp put on a stand. Two things are said about the candle: it is put on a stand, and it gives light to all that are in the house.

Thought 1. Several lessons can be learned from these illustrations.

(1) Believers shine as lights in the world. We are like cities and like lamps sitting in a dark world.

(2) Light has different strengths. It can be strong or weak, bright or dim. In fact, it can be so dim and provide so little light that a person can stumble and fall.

(3) Some places in the world are brightly lit; others are dimly lit. Some cities have many bright lights; other cities have few bright lights. Some homes have strong lights; other homes have weak lights. Every city, every home, and every business—every place on this earth that has the witness of a Christian believer—has some light, either weak or strong.

(4) A light can become so weak it is of no use.

(5) A light is not lit to be hid. Why would anybody put a light under a basket? It is lit to be seen and to give light. Therefore, a light is conspicuous—apparent, easily visible. It has many eyes on it.

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Co.4:6)

4. The disciple’s purpose.

The believer has light. That light is already within us. We are the light of God on earth. Note the exact words spoken by Christ: “Let your light shine.” We can refuse to let our light shine. We can turn it off, refuse to turn it on, shade it, darken it, turn it away, direct its beam in another direction. If we do, we will not be fulfilling our purpose, the purpose for which Christ has called us.

a. To let your light—good works—shine before people. Our purpose is to let our light shine in order to show forth good works. The command “Let your light shine” means let your good works be seen. The believer is to show good works to the world. Note that we are to be careful how we do our good works before others (Jas.3:13).

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity. (Tit.2:7)

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. (Tit.3:8; see Tit.2:14)

So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (Jas.2:17)

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honourable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (1 Pe.2:12)

b. To stir people to glorify God.

Our purpose and supreme reason for letting our light shine is to stir other people to glorify God. The glory of God is to be the primary aim of all believers (1 Pe.4:11; 5:11). The very way God is glorified is by the light, the good works of believers shining before mankind. Note two observations:

- God is glorified when believers get out into the darkness where people are.
- The good works of believers are to be done out in darkness, not within confined walls with other lights.

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (Jn.15:8)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (Jn.15:16)

For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Co.6:20)

Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pe.4:11)

Thought 1. There are several significant lessons in this point.

1) Light has one purpose: to shine before others. Light is not seen unless it is placed before others. If there are no people, there are no eyes to see the light. Believers must not isolate ourselves from others.

2) Other lights do not need light. It is the people in darkness who need light. Believers, let your light so shine before others—before people out in darkness! Believers are not to be secluded 5:14–16 105 in the church, moving only among other lights. The more light that is put out in the darkness, the more the darkness is eliminated.

3) Believers are not the only ones who are to glorify God. We are to go out and cause those in darkness to glorify Him as well. Then only the work is completed and the purpose is fulfilled.