

“The Candle and the Christian”
Matthew 5:14-16

Introduction: In His sermon, the Lord continues to show disciples their responsibility of being a light to this world of darkness. He did this through the image of a candle shining. We understand that a candle is useless until it is aflame. Likewise, the Christian is ineffective until he or she is burning with the fire of God in their lives (Hebrews 1:7). No one tries to conceal the light of a burning candle, and, equally, believers should not try to obscure the light of the gospel (II Corinthians 4:3). As we view the candle, we see similarities between it, the Christian, and the Church. Notice the typology of the candle.

1. Type of the Christian Matthew 5:14- “Ye are the light of the world”
2. Type of the Church Revelation 1:20- “seven candlesticks...are the seven churches”

Body: The Christian’s holy conversation should be a faithful witness and instruction to those seeking the truth. Many times, the only trace of God that a sinner sees is manifested in the life of a believer. This is why it is so important to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. All of our life should bring glory to God and not to us. Jesus was trying to convey this truth to the listeners gathered around him. He described the candle and its attributes that resemble the Christian and their walk. Notice a few elements about the candle that relate to the saints of God.

- I. The Purpose of the Candle 5:14- “the light of the world” Philippians 2:15-16
 - A. The Candle Must Glow 5:16- “Let your light...shine before men” Luke 11:36
 - B. The Candle Must Guide 5:16- “that they may see your good works”
 - C. The Candle Must Glorify 5:16- “glorify your Father which is in heaven”
- II. The Priority of the Candle 5:14- “cannot be hid”
 - A. The Bushel Matthew 5:15- “Neither...put it under a bushel”
 - B. The Bed Mark 4:21- “*or* under a bed”
 - C. The Bakery Luke 8:16- “covereth it with a vessel”
 - D. The Blindness Luke 11:33- “putteth *it* in a secret place”
- III. The Power of the Candle 5:15- “light a candle” Psalms 18:28
- IV. The Position of the Candle 5:15- “on a candlestick”
 - A. The Support of the Candle Mark 4:21- “set on a candlestick”
 - B. The Sitting of the Candle Luke 11:33- “on a candlestick”
- V. The Practice of the Candle 5:15- “it giveth light unto all that are in the house”
 - A. Light to the Family Matthew 5:15- “unto all that are in the house”
 - B. Light to the Friends Luke 8:16- “they which enter in may see the light”
 - C. Light to Find Luke 15:8- “seek diligently till she find *it*”
 1. The Loss of the Careless Luke 15:8- “if she lose one piece”
 2. The Lighting of the Candle Luke 15:8- “doth not light a candle”

3. The Looking of the Concerned Luke 15:8- “seek diligently”
4. The Lauding of the Content Luke 15:9- “I have found the piece”

Conclusion: From this parable, we learn the importance of being a light for direction. Like candles, Christians should shine regardless of their appearance, criticism, afflictions, and even if they are not recognized. The most important part of the candle is the flame. It should never be hid or put out. May the Lord help us to continue to shine for His glory!