

## Who is the Light of the World?

*(A message to help us realize that we as God's children are the light of the world and in other words this means that we need to live as Christ Jesus would have lived.)*

### A SERMON DELIVERED AT THE HAENERTSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN HAENERTSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA 09<sup>th</sup> December 2018

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#### **Main Scripture:**

Matthew 5:14-16

**“You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people **light** a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead **they** put it on its stand, and it gives **light** to everyone in **the** house. In **the** same way, let **your light** shine before others, that **they** may see **your** good deeds and glorify **your** Father in heaven.

#### **Introduction:**

Well good morning to you all and to all those viewers on YouTube and those that are listening on iTunes or podcast. It is such an honour and privilege to have you connecting and sharing this time with us.

We are busy with the series on Spiritual Maturity and this is the 4<sup>th</sup> in the series.

All of us, when we have a child, want them to become mature and not just to remain drinking milk and having to put nappies on them 20 years later.

God wants us to become mature, but sadly most Christians don't ever get to become mothers and fathers in the faith. God want to change this so that we, as His people, grow and mature and reproduce after their own kind.

**1<sup>st</sup> week sermon: Stages of Spiritual Maturity.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Last week's sermon: A Mature Christin or A World Christian**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Last week's sermon: Let's Go on to Maturity in Christ.**

#### **Re-Cap:**

- 1. Let's Leave the Basics and Become Mature.**
- 2. Let's Put Everything in to Become Mature.**
- 3. Let's Understand that Suffering Helps us Become Mature.**
- 4. Let's Make Every Effort to Become Mature.**

## **This Morning: Who is the Light of the World?**

### **Introduction:**

#### **1. Jesus had many different names.**

There were many titles that Jesus used for Himself and are known as the I am statements:

#### **The 7 “I Am” Statements of Jesus:**

- I am the true vine.
- I am the bread of life.
- I am the good shepherd.
- I am the door of the sheep.
- I am the light of the world.
- I am the resurrection and the life.
- I am the way, the truth, and the life.

These titles were unique to Jesus and Him alone, however there was one name that He called himself that He shared with us.

#### **2. Jesus declared that He is the light of the world.**

John 8:12 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Now we see that in the Old Testament the written Word of God, which you find on parchment for 1500 years, was the light for all people.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.

This is the basis and foundation of you and me learning about God and how He works and wants us to live.

John 1:14 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:4-5 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Throughout Jesus’ life He was the light of the world and was the perfect example to all of mankind.

#### **3. Jesus is now no longer the light of the world.**

John 9:5 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

This means that Jesus was only the Light of the world while He was in the world and hence, right now, He is no longer the Light of the world.

John 17:11 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

#### 4. Jesus declares that we are now the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14-16

**“You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people **light** a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead **they** put it on its stand, and it gives **light** to everyone in **the** house. In **the** same way, let **your light** shine before others, that **they** may see **your** good deeds and glorify **your** Father in heaven.

So tell me who is the light of the world?

Please say that right now: **I am the light of the world.**

This is an awesome responsibility and you cannot say this if you are living in sin. Do you see we become fearful because we realize what an incredible responsibility it is to represent God well as His ambassador? Being a light means that we need to be a light in a dark place and the dark place is the confused messed up world.

Being the light of the world means that we need to live out a life just like Christ.

#### 5. Jesus knew we need the Holy Spirit in order to be the light.

In Jesus time they had lamps that were filled with oil and without oil that lamp could not shine. This means that no oil no light. Throughout the Scriptures the oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit. This then means that no one can be the light of the world without being infilling with the Holy Spirit.

Now we need to understand this and that is that man only became the light of the world when Jesus left the earth and the day of Pentecost took place where the Holy Spirit came and filled His disciples without measure. You see in ourselves we cannot be the light of the world, but in Christ we are the light of the world.

This is why we need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

If you get drunk on wine do you stay drunk for the rest of your life? Obviously not and forgive me for being facetious, but that is not the case as I am just trying to make a point. The point is that the

word “filled” here means to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit. We are not to be drunk on wine which leads to death, but we need to be drunk in the Holy Spirit so that we can be the light of the world and make a godly difference. Please note for this to happen you have to yield every part of your life to God or else you will never be the light of the world.

**Re-Cap:**

- 1. Jesus had many different names.**
- 2. Jesus declared that He is the light of the world.**
- 3. Jesus is now no longer the light of the world.**
- 4. Jesus declares that we are now the light of the world.**
- 5. Jesus knew we need the Holy Spirit in order to be the light.**

Amen.

**NOTES:**

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Amen.

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This sermon was preached by Dr. Ian Loughor-Clarke at Haenertsburg Christian Church on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018. (c) Dr. Ian F. Loughor-Clarke, Haenertsburg Christian Church.

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