

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: July 9, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Bro. Charles Lovelock	Reference: St. Matthew 5:13-16
Topic: Celebrating Our Privilege and Guarding our Responsibilities in Christ...as a Christian	



The word Christian is widely understood as a follower of Christ. To be a Christian is to become a part of God's kingdom, part of an eternal movement that cannot be ended by death. Being a part of that kingdom is therefore a primary privilege and our privileges as Christians cannot be separated from our responsibilities. In this excerpt from the Sermon on the Mount, the Christian responsibility can be summed up as a call to be the **light of the world**, manifesting itself in the form of **Illumination, Illustration and Influence**.

Illumination speaks about the power of light. Jesus is the ultimate representation of light (the light of the world) that removes the disaster and chaos that there is in the world. (St. John 8:12). As light, Jesus also provides guidance so that His people will not fall into the traps and pitfalls. If Jesus is the ultimate example of light, it is a tremendous compliment for us to hear Him say that 'we are the light of the world.' As light, we reflect the illuminating presence of God into the world and we should be ever-growing in our knowledge of Christ.

Illustration represents the prominence of light. As Christians, we are like a city on a hill, meaning that we are not hidden from view. There is no such thing as a secret disciple. If we are truly light, then that light permeates our surroundings (wherever we are). This should lead us to evaluate our witness in the world as well as in our homes.

Influence speaks to the presence of light. Our presence as light will be revealed by our actions. We are called to work for Jesus and when we do that, others ought to be drawn to what we do. The work that we do should glorify God and it is only 'good' works that bring about such glorification (*verse 16*). Our good works are to also lead others to Jesus Christ.