

I. Exposition of the Text

- A.** The Christian (Mt 25:1) and the Church (Rev 1:12-13) in the State of Grace is illustrated to be like a candle, a lampstand.
- B.** The Christian (Dan 12:3) and the Church (Mt 13:43) in the State of Glory is illustrated to be like the stars of the heavens.
- C.** Points of Comparison:
 - 1)** Candles and Stars are both sources of light.
 - 2)** Candles and Stars are both dependent upon the Lord for their sustaining.
- D.** The Points of Contrast are most useful for our meditation,

II. Doctrines from the Text — Ten ways the State of Glory is superior to the State of Grace, which may be compared to the superiority of a Star to that of a Candle.

- A.** The Essence of the Light Source Itself, Not Only Its Qualities, Is Greater.
 - 1)** The Illustration Explained.
 - 2)** The Application Drawn Forth (1 Cor 15:42-44, 46-49)
- B.** The Purpose of the Light
 - 1)** The Illustration Explained (Psa 19:1-2; Gen 15:5; Jer 31:37)
 - 2)** The Application Drawn Forth (Rev 5:11-12)
- C.** The Purity of the Light
 - 1)** The Illustration Explained.
 - 2)** The Application Drawn Forth (Heb 12:22-23).
- D.** The Brilliance of the Light
 - 1)** The Illustration Explained
 - 2)** The Application Drawn Forth (Rev 21:27, 22:3)
- E.** The Self-Sufficiency of the Light
 - 1)** The Illustration Explained
 - 2)** The Application Drawn Forth (Rev 21:4)
- F.** The Perpetuity of the Light
 - 1)** The Illustration Explained
 - 2)** The Application Drawn Forth (Jms 4:14; Rev 21:24-26)
- G.** The Patience and Perseverance of the Light
 - 1)** The Illustration Explained

2) The Application Drawn Forth (Rev 22:2-3)**H.** The Effect of the Multiplication of these Lights

- 1)** The Illustration Explained
- 2)** The Application Drawn Forth —
 - a)** The Church gathered for worship is like a grouping of candles: (Mt 5:14-16; Jdg 7:20)
 - b)** The Church gathered for worship is like the majesty of the starry hosts (Rev 7:9-12)

I. The Glory of the Surroundings

- 1)** The Illustration Explained
- 2)** The Application Drawn Forth
 - a)** All the saints, an innumerable host of all the elect of God, perfect in holiness; together with all the holy angels and creatures, worshipping God in fullness/beauty of holiness.
 - b)** More gloriously, and importantly, and what makes it heaven is the very presence of the Triune God in full communion with him for all eternity! (Rev 21:22-23, 22:4-5, Isa 33:17)

J. The Closeness of the Likeness of the Light to its Archetype

- 1)** The Illustration Explained
- 2)** The Application Drawn Forth (2 Pt 1:4; Psa 17:15; Phil 3:20-21)

III. Answering Objections to the Text

- A.** But how is this glory gained? (Jn 11:25-26)
- B.** But how may I know this promise is for me? (Psa 23:1, 4, 6)

IV. Uses from the Text

- A.** We ought to ensure this is our inheritance, that we are true children of the Heavenly Father.
- B.** We ought to meditate on Heaven: Regularly and Occasionally (sickness, death, the Lord's Day)
- C.** Have a humility before the Lord, which should lead to a desire for further sanctification.
- D.** Meditation on Heaven should greatly affect our thoughts (Mt 13:44; Psa 16:11), words (Mt 12:36-37), and deeds (2 Pt 3:14).
- E.** Meditation on Heaven should greatly increase our faith (1 Cor 13:12), hope (2 Pt 3:13), and love (Pr 4:18).