

The Gospel According to Matthew

Study # 7

Chapter 5:13-16

Believers as Salt of the Earth

**"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."
(Matt. 5:13)**

Salt preserves food from corruption and enhances its flavor (Job 6:6). Salt was an important part of the Old Testament sacrifices (Lev. 2:13; Ezek. 43:23-24).

Christ wants His followers to be as the salt of the earth. Their life should have the aroma of Christ:

"For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Cor. 2:15-16)

Our speech should always be seasoned with salt and be befitting of a child of God:

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." (Col. 4:6)

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." (Eph. 4:29)

Pure salt will never lose its saltiness and flavor. The salt that is common in the Dead Sea is impure because it is mixed with other minerals and hence it loses its flavor and effectiveness as a preservative. Believers are to keep themselves pure from the world in order to maintain their aroma and effectiveness in the world:

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:11-12)

"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has

righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." (2 Cor. 6:14-16)

"For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another." (Mark 9:49-50)

Believers as Light of the World

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16)

The moon is not a light source but reflects light from the sun. Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12). And His followers reflect His light to others:

"That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." (Phil. 2:15)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8)

"You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness." (1 Thess. 5:5)

We are not to hid the light of the gospel to others:

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor. 4:3-6)

We are not to hid the light of Christ in us but it should be evident to all:

"Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:12)

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10)

"And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful." (Titus 3:14)

2 Ways to Keep Your Light Shining

1. Abide in Christ the Light

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12)

"For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness." (Psalm 18:28)

"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:5-7)

2. Abide in His Word

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

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