You are Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-16

Read Matt 5:13-16 Jesus makes two emphatic statements regarding the kind of affect Christians are to have on the ungodly society they live amongst. Salt & Light.

Salt to savor, Light to illumine. Light to shine in a dark world, not to hide in it. Salt to flavor life as God intended, not becoming tasteless. How many Christians have lost their savor, hid their light by giving in to culture.

Few years back, controversy over Eph 5:22 – So. Bapt defined *'wives graciously submit to your husbands'* three pastors Larry King live Two pastors defended the inerrancy of Bible and definition while the other said *'Paul wasn't married and wouldn't know about married life'*. Refuting the bible. Rbt Shuller lost his savor his light had gone out

Inherent properties of Salt: In ancient times salt often called 'white gold' for high value for human survival. Our body needs sodium & chloride to balance bodily fluids, proper operation of nervous system & muscle function. Salt prevents decay & store food. Scarcity…used for wages--Roman soldiers received an allowance called salarium to buy salt--origin of word salary. Ancient China & Rome controlled salt supplies w/ heavy taxation & used to fund building projects like Great Wall. Historians note in specific trade zone like Sahara Desert where salt was scarce trading salt for gold was typical.

Salt is necessary to sustain life; In humans--average body contains about 40 teaspoons or 0.4% Spiritually Christians have a life giving message. ***Speech seasoned w/ salt***

Salt retards decay, keeps in check the rotting process. Believers slow the moral decay of the culture.

Salt gives flavor to what is bland. ***Job 6:6 Can something tasteless be eaten w/o salt, or is there any taste in the white of an egg?*** Christian life seasons a bland, dull, tasteless life

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Salt cleanses & disinfects—salting a wound cleans & heals. The Christian brings healing to a sinful life—purifies, purges, disinfects corruption.

Salt creates thirst—salt is absorbed in bloodstream-thirst sensors in brain alert--blood too salty, water needed to dilute blood so thirst is created. Christian create a thirst for Lord ***Ps 42:2 As the deer pants for the water brook so my soul pants after thee O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God…"***

Salt melts ice, brings to a lower freeze tempt--Christian witness melts cold hearts, softens the hard hearted.

Jesus said you ***are*** the salt of the earth—Believers are the only element w/ inherent properties to do in the world what salt does.

Salt was an ingredient in OT God required w/ all sacrifices—only when added was offering acceptable. ***Lev 2:13 'Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt..*** Temple had special store rooms designated—'*Chambers of Salt*'.

The moment an animal sac it in state of decay--unsavory until salt added.

Leaven on the other hand was a rotting influence; Salt was the opposite, a preservative against putrefaction—it spoke of Gods incorruptible nature, unalterable purposes, preservation of His covenant promises.

Salt covenant in east signified a binding agreement btwn 2 parties. *God wants salty saints*

Jericho was a good city w/ bad water making it uninhabitable until Elisha healed the waters by throwing a jar of salt in the spring making the waters pure & land productive. ***Pr 4:23 Watch over your heart w/ all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life—pure heart affects whole life***

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David's throne established w/ salt covenant—incorruptible, enduring ***2 Chr 13:5 "Do you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the rule over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?***

Hebrew children were salted at birth ***Ez 16:4*** ***"As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths.*** 'rubbed w/ salt' promote health

5:13 ***You are the salt of the earth***…Paul to ***Col 4:6…Let your speech always be w/ grace, seasoned as it were, w/ salt….so know how respond each person*** -- salt mine nearby. Metaphor to make speech palatable, acceptable, edible, not bland or tasteless yet not over salted -- Naylene

Lose saltiness w/o flavor—good for nothing Grk *moros* is godless, play the fool (Eng morose—sullen, gloomy) Salt destroys fertility of soil so good only to fill pot holes, gravel for roads. *'As a fool w/o reason so is a Christian w/o season'*.

Salt can save & savor but nothing can save or savor salt. If Jesus is not enough nothing is enough.

In 'The Land & the Book' Dr Thompson tells of a merchant of Sidon having farmed a great quantity of salt from the marshes of Cyprus, enough to supply the whole province for many years. Yet wanting to cheat the government out of a small percentage of duty he rented 65 houses in a mountain village & filled them w/ the salt. These types of houses had earthen floors. The flavor of the salt is leeched out when it comes in contact w/ the ground. W/in a few years the entire batch of salt spoiled All the salt was then taken and thrown into the road as pavement trodden under foot by man and beast

As earth leeches salt of its savor, the world draws & leeches savor out of the Christian ***Ja 4:4 You adulteresses do you not know that friendship w/ the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.***

:14-16 Close to where Jesus was speaking was the city of Safad-positioned on a mt range known as the Horns of Hattim—visible for miles around.

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Title *'light of the world'* was applied to the most eminent rabbis. Jesus applied it to Himself & the disciples who were to radiate God's light. ***1Jn 1:5 And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*** ***Jn 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."*** ***Eph 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light***

Light makes visible; God's nature & man's condition—the crooked & the straight—way to heaven & road to hell. ***Eph 5:13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. Pr 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life.***

Bushel 21/2 Gal dry measure pot or bowl common in homes. Lampstand pottery bowl w/ wick & olive oil on stone shelf protruding from wall

How we know our light is shinning----8 ways

Love ***1Jn 2:9,10 The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.***

Fellowship & forgiveness ***1Jn1:7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.***

Fruit ***Eph 5:9 for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness & righteousness & truth***

Delivered from darkness ***Jn 12:46 "I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness.***

God glorified ***1Pet 4:11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Resurrection for all ***Acts 26:23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."***

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Discerning false light ***2Cor 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.***

Our Armor ***Rom 13:12-14 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Ph 36:9 With you Lord is the fountain of life; In your light we see light.***

Salt to convert the world **not** be conformed to it. Light to shine in darkness not to be overcome by it.