

“SALT AND LIGHT”—DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

By Keith Greer

"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. 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. "{Matthew 5:13-16}

After Jesus listed the attitudes that the citizens of the kingdom of heaven must have He gave the "other side of the coin". Jesus tells us how these attitudes must impact the world for the cause of Christ.

"You are the salt of the earth..." What did Christ mean by this statement? Salt has two qualities: enhances flavor and preserves. Our life as a Christian must have these spiritual qualities. How?

Do our lives "enhance" the good in the Christian life for all to see? Do we make this world see the better side of things? Our lives must "preserve" the good and righteousness of God. We are to be: the "flavoring" effect for the world of good, righteous and wholesome things. Do we give people another option and course to pursue? Do they see the good that God created for His creation by the conduct of His children?

"...it is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot of men." God gave this duty to only His children--not the world! If we are the "salt of the earth", then the earth has not salt! Do you wonder why God allows man to continue to live, despite the ungodly actions of His creation? He is allowing the "salt" to try to show the world a better way.

"You are the light of the world..." While Jesus was here, how did He refer to Himself? "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)

"That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world." {John 1:9}

"While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. "{John 12:36}

Jesus has now ascended back to the Father. Who are the "lights" for mankind today? What does light do? It radiates and makes things visible. It gives direction for those groping in darkness. It exposes people for what they are.

"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." {John 3:20}

Brother, are you a light in this world? Do you show the way men can come to God by the life you live? How are those, in the darkness and despair of the bondage of sin, going to find the way out? People in sin need to see the light! Do we help them find it?

"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." {2 Corinthians 4:4}

Brother or sister do you make a difference in the world? Does your life make an impact for the cause of Christ? Please take time to notice how badly this sin-dark world needs the light of the gospel Christ can give. Unfortunately, men will not take the time to open up the pages of God's book to see and come to know the true Light. A song in our book I'm reminded of is "**Send the Light.**" God is counting on us to be that "light" to guide men to the cross of Christ for redemption. Do you point people toward the light-or away from it? Truth is, we do one or the other. ***