

Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
Winter Bible February 14, 2022

“The Salt and Light”

By Elder Billy Moran

Scripture Lesson: (Mt. 5:13-16) In this portion of the **Sermon on The Mount**, Jesus was teaching his disciples, whom I believe, were the first members of the infant church, the “Called Out Assembly of Baptized Believers.” (Mt. 5:1-2) Jesus called his disciples away from the multitude, and taught them privately. His message was about the church’s role in the world. Jesus used two metaphors, “Ye” are the “salt” of the earth, and “Ye” are the “light” of the world. The word “Ye” is a pronoun (second person plural), which shows he was teaching a group, and not an individual. There are things believers need to be taught that unbelievers can’t understand. (1 Cor. 2:14)

He used the term “Salt” to illustrate the power of influence the church would have in the earth, and he used “Light” to illustrate the power of the Word of God; specifically “The Gospel of Jesus Christ” and “Fundamental Doctrinal Principals” upon which his “Visible Church” was founded.

I read that Pliny, A “Natural History writer”, who lived from 23 A.D. to 79 A.D. said, “Without salt, human life cannot be sustained!” And it’s true! The human body is incapable of making Sodium Chloride (salt). It must be added. And Salt has two very important uses, with purpose.

“The Salt”

1. Salt, when added to food, makes it palatable; adds flavor, and makes it pleasant to the taste. Salt penetrates and permeates throughout the food. And, like salt, the church, by promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and his teachings, makes the world a better place to live. Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth”. The “**message**” of the gospel, is the power, (dunimus) miracle power, of the gospel, not the preacher. You know why? because it not only enters the ear, it reaches the heart.

Again Paul said, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and the intents of the heart”. (Hebrews 4:12 & Acts 2:37) We read of the “Savour” of his knowledge manifested by us in every place. “To the one we are a savor of death unto death: and to the other we are a savor of life unto life” (2 Cor. 2:14-17)

2. Like “salt”, that preserves perishable things, the church, must preserve the Institution established by the Lord Jesus, and the doctrines he taught and delivered to the church, once and for all time, because the church is the “pillar and ground of the truth”. See Jude 3-4, and 2 Tim. 3:14-15) Of all the institutions only the “Church” is the support and stay of the “gospel & truth”.

Under “Ceremonial Law worship”, “Every oblation of thy meat offering, (things offered to God) shalt thou season with salt; neither shall thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be

lacking from thy meat offerings; “with all thy offerings thou shalt season with salt.” (Lev. 2:13)
“It is a covenant of salt for ever before the Lord unto thee and to thy seed after thee.” (Nu. 18:19)

Paul said, “Walk in wisdom toward them which are without, redeeming the time. (not wasting opportunities) Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man”. (Col. 4:5-6) (That is, in good taste, in an effort to prevent those who hear you from perishing)

Jesus said “For every one shall be salted with fire. and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.”
Then Jesus said, “Salt is good: but if the salt have lost “his” saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. (Mark 9:49-50)

“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

“But”, said Jesus, “If the salt (church) have lost his “savor” (the good taste and preserving influence) wherewith shall it be salted? **It is henceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and trodden under foot of men.** Salt is the remedy for unsavory food, but there is no remedy for unsavory salt. If salt is not salty, it has no value!

“Ye (The Church) Are The Light of the world”

Jesus used the word “Light” to illustrate the “power” of the word of God, and specifically, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and how it makes manifest the love, mercy, and grace of God, and the difference it has made in our lives, as it shines, and makes visible to others the change. Jesus said, “Ye shall know them by their fruits”.

This is also a metaphor“. In the beginning,... “God said, let there be light, and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3) When God spoke, the light shined out of darkness, and the darkness could not prevent it from shining. (Jn. 1:5) Literally, light came forth and dispelled the darkness, by the word of the living and eternal God.

The same is true with every one who has been saved from sin; born again, converted, justified, regenerated: however you want to describe the experience. Colossians 1:12-14, defines the experience as, **being delivered from the power of darkness**, and translated into the Kingdom of his dear Son. (Kingdom of Light)

Paul puts it this way; “... the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the **light of the glorious gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, **should shine unto them** “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

“For ye were sometimes darkness (at one time in darkness) but now ye are light, in the Lord: (Living in the Light)“ **Walk as children of light:**” (Eph. 5:8 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day, we are not of the night, nor of darkness.” (1 Thess. 5:5),

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple”. (Ps. 119:130)
Again, “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.
“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Ps. 119:104-105)

God has put a light in the hearts of all individuals who are saved. This light is fueled by the Holy Spirit, which God sent forth into our hearts, whereby we cry Abba Father. (Gal 4:6) It is the **light of the knowledge of the glory of God; (Knowledge of Salvation)** We know we have been saved by the grace of God through Jesus our Lord. In The Parable, spoken by Jesus, only five of the Ten Virgins, had oil in their vessels, to keep the Lamps burning. (Mt. 25:1)

How Do We Become The “Light” of The World?

Jesus said, “Ye”, (The Church) is the light of the world. A City that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel. (That would make no sense to do that) But on a candlestick, that it may give light to all that are in the house. But what does make sense, is to put the candle that has been lit on a candlestick, so it will give light to everyone.

The church is the candlestick in the New Testament. (Rev. 1:20) Every Person who has been enlightened, and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and tasted of the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, (Saved persons) should present themselves to the church and request to be baptized and added to the church.

Why should saved persons be members of the church? So you can be a part of promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world, and to every person. **What a privilege!** Also, so you can be a part of glorifying your Father which is in Heaven; who made salvation available to the whole world through the gift of his son, who died for all; and, so others will see your good works, your obedience to the Word of God, and your example; that they too might be saved and glorify God.

Let me make an illustration: This church building has many light fixtures. One fixture would give some light, but with every fixture that is added, the light increases. The more lights, the brighter the glow. The purpose for uniting with the church is not to grow a number; it's so there will be more resources. More united prayers, greater witness, more talent, and more finances available for mission work, both locally and abroad, and greater influence in the community.

The church is a teaching institution! Jesus said, “Go teach all Nations...”! The church is the place where we are taught the word of God; Where we “study” to show ourselves approved unto God” and where we grow in grace and Knowledge. May God help us to be “... blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world. Holding forth the word of life...” (Philippians 2:14-16)