

SALT and LIGHT

In Matthew, chapter 5, Jesus, in His "Sermon on the Mount," uses two items to prove a point -- it is well that we consider them carefully -- SALT and LIGHT --

Jesus first says, "*You are the SALT of the earth -- but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot of men*" (vs. 13).

SALT has many properties. It is a preservative and purifier, it has antiseptic qualities, it enhances food, it cleanses wounds. In the Bible it is also used as a sign of hospitality and an emblem of covenant. In this verse Christ is emphasizing that Believers should make their presence on earth known in a positive way in their everyday life -- if not we are worthless and only to be discarded.

Then Jesus says, "*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 lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house*" (vs. 14, 15).

True LIGHT is hard to hide -- a city on a hill and a lamp in a house -- both are there to illuminate and dispel darkness. Out on the ocean on a dark night the far away lighthouse will be seen for many miles -- so too, a small candle in a dark room. They are made for the purpose of showing the way -- and Believers are also made to show the way of Salvation and must not be hidden nor covered up.

"Let your LIGHT so shine before men, that they may see your good works and Glorify your Father which is in Heaven" (vs. 16).

Christ's admonition to "*let your LIGHT shine*" is for those who know Him, to make known to those in darkness the path to Salvation and Heaven. Too often a Believer is not careful to open his heart to the lost and let his light shine through.

The 10 Commandments in the Old Testament are as important today as they were when written. Jesus emphasizes, "*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill*" (vs. 17). Remember, these are not the 10 Suggestions, nor are they a buffet for us to pick and choose what we want -- they are 10 Commands from the heart of God, for our benefit.

"For sure, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (Vs. 18) which means that every little point is important and necessary to observe.

God's 10 Commandments have stood the test of time from the moment God gave them to Moses, and will remain always. Remember, God loves us and wants the very best for us -- that is why He gave them.

"Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these Commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven -- but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven" (vs. 19). To break just one of God's Commandments is to be guilty of them all.

"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the religious leaders of the day, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (vs. 20). The Righteousness spoken of here is the Righteousness of Jesus Christ given to us when we submit to His authority by following His Plan of Salvation, believing in Him, and receiving Him into our hearts and lives.

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness -- and all these things shall be given unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Salvation, Redemption, Forgiveness are God's Gifts to us (all in one package) -- we cannot earn nor purchase them -- we can only thank God and receive His Gifts through the Sacrificial Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be Saved" (Acts 16:31).

REMEMBER -- We are to be SALT and LIGHT -- HE gives the Power!

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