

Salt of the Earth

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (**Matt 5:13**) “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”
 - b. Importance of Salt
 - i. “Salt has been a precious commodity since ancient times. It was often traded ounce for ounce for gold. The early Chinese used coins made of salt for currency. In many areas around the Mediterranean Sea, salt cakes were used as currency. Several ancient cultures also levied taxes on salt.” (**World Book 2004**)
 - ii. Romans paid ‘Salt Allowances’ to their soldiers – Latin word “Salarium” – Our English word “Salary” comes from “Salarium”
 - c. (**Matt 5:10-16**)
 - i. Speaks of persecution
 - ii. Tells us to rejoice – and gives encouragement by teaching that His disciples were the Salt of the Earth
 - iii. Earth = Humanity / Salt of Humanity
- II. Not easy to be a dedicated Christian in this world
 - a. World against God
 - i. (**John 15:18-19**) “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”
 - ii. (**James 4:4**) “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
 - b. Persecution is Inevitable – Expected
 - i. (**1 John 3:13**) “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.”
 - ii. (**1 Peter 4:12-14**) “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”
 - c. This is an Encouragement to be a Blessing to a World that Hates You
 - i. Not of the World but we are in the World – Salt
- III. Christian Called Salt
 - a. The ideal active and efficient Christian character is like salt. How?
 - b. Two aspects of Salt that we need to look at:
 - i. In its elements. As salt is made up of chlorine and sodium chemically united, so a Christian character is composed of faith and works in union.

1. As chlorine gas is a deadly poison by itself, so faith without works killeth.
 - a. **(James 2:19-20)** “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith** without **works** is **dead**?”
 - b. **(James 2:26)** “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith** without **works** is **dead** also.”
 - i. Chloride – Sodium = Deadly Poison
 - ii. Faith – Works = Deadly Faith
2. As the metal sodium is destitute alone of the preserving quality of salt, so works without faith are destitute of the preserving the soul.
 - a. **(Gal 2:16)** “Knowing that a man is not justified by the **works of the law**, but by the **faith of Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”
 - i. Sodium – Chloride = Destitute of preserving quality of salt
 - ii. Works – Faith = Destitute of preserving the Soul
3. As the chemical union of the two elements forms a third substance, with a new and useful quality, so faith and works, when united, give life and efficiency to Christian character.
 - a. **(Rom 1:4-5)** “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for **obedience to the faith** among all nations, for his name.”
 - b. **(Rom 16:26)** “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the **obedience of faith**.”
 - c. **(1 Peter 1:22-23)** “Seeing ye have **purified** your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
 - i. Sodium + Chloride = Salt
 - ii. Works + Faith = Salvation

ii. In its effects:

1. As salt prevents corruption and decay in animal and vegetable matter, so Christian character is the antidote of vice in the individual and in society.
 - a. “Salt is considered antibacterial because it restricts bacterial growth in many foods. It preserves foods by lowering the amount of "free" water molecules in foods. Bacteria need moisture in order to thrive, so without enough "free" water, they cannot grow well in foods that contain salt.”
(<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov>)
 - b. The Christian influence his surroundings in such a way that he helps preserve it from corruption and ultimately destruction.
 - c. (**Prov 14:34**) “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
 - d. The world of Noah was destroyed because of the lack of ‘salt’
 - i. (**Gen 6:1-2**) “And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.”
 - ii. (**Gen 6:11-12**) “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.”
 - e. Sodom and Gomorrah could’ve been saved if there where more ‘salt’
 - i. (**Gen 18:23**) “And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”
 - ii. Just 10 righteous
 - f. Without the Kingdom of God this world would be in complete degradation – just like the days of Noah
 - g. Our Nation will continue on its downward slide if we are not more influential
2. Salt will penetrate and influence whatever it touches – Christians must be just as aggressive in our influence
 - a. (**Acts 8:1,4**) “And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all **scattered abroad** throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles... . . .

Therefore they that were **scattered** abroad went every where **preaching the word.**”

- i. When you use salt you don't pile it up in one spot but you scatter it all over – influence goes everywhere!
 - b. We need to go everywhere throughout our locality and spread the gospel – not only pour the salt here at this building but throughout the community
 - c. **(1 Peter 2:12)** “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
 - i. Glorify God because they become ‘Salt’ also
 - d. **(1 Peter 3:1-2)** “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.”
3. Salt is used as a purifying agent
- a. Newborns are bathed in salt water to clean their bodies
 - i. **(Ezek 16:4)** “And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.”
 - b. The meat offering was to be made with salt
 - i. **(Lev 2:13)** “And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.”
 1. Symbol of purification
 - c. We today are a living sacrifice
 - i. **(Rom 12:1-2)** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 - d. We must offer ourselves using salt

- i. **(Col 4:6)** “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
 - ii. **(Mark 9:50)** “Salt is good: but if the salt has lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.”
 - e. We are to use the salt of the gospel of Christ to season ourselves with.
 - i. **(Rom 1:16-17)** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
 - ii. **(Heb 4:12)** “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

4. Poisons Unrighteous Behaviors

- a. Salt is poison to some things – Bacteria, Slugs, Lawn
 - i. **(Judg 9:45)** “And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that was therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.”
- b. Our Christian Influence is poison to unrighteous behaviors in our:
 - i. Homes
 - ii. Workplace
 - iii. Community
 - iv. Nation
- c. **(Titus 2:7-8)** “In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be **ashamed**, having no evil thing to say of you.”

IV. Looses its Saltiness

- a. **(Matt 5:13)** “...but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

- b. Impossibility for pure salt to lose its saltiness – Sodium Chloride will always be ‘Salty’!
- c. The loss of saltiness occurs when impurities are introduced
 - i. “It is a well-known fact that the salt of this country, if left long in contact with the ground, does become insipid and tasteless. From the manner in which it is gathered, much earth and other impurities are necessarily collected with it. Not a little of it is so impure that it cannot be used at all, and such salt soon effloresces and turns to dust -- not to fruitful soil, however. It is not only “good for nothing,” but it actually destroys all fertility wherever it is thrown; and this is the reason why it is cast into the street, to be “trodden under the foot of men.” (W. M. Thomson, D. D. 'Land and the Book,' p. 382)
 - ii. If we allow impurities to enter and dwell in our life we will lose our influence and as Jesus puts it “Good for nothing”
 - 1. Shall we continue to sin?
 - a. **(Rom 6:1-6)**
 - 2. Be not conformed to this world – Transform
 - a. **(Rom 12:2)** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
- d. Trodden down on the road to be trampled on by mankind
 - i. No use for God
 - ii. No use for mankind

V. Conclusion – Encouragement

- a. The Christian is the Salt of the World
- b. The preservation and positive influence of mankind
- c. Let us start by being the salt of our:
 - i. Homes
 - ii. Schools
 - iii. Workplaces
 - iv. Communities
- d. If you are not “Salt” be purified today in obedience to the Gospel of Christ