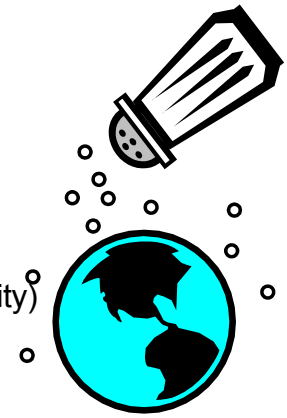
"Be Salt! Be Light!"

Matthew 5:13-16
3/19/2017

INTRODUCTION:

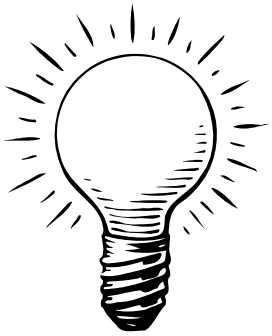
***Make an impact on this world! BE SALT! BE LIGHT!**



How?

I. **Don't lose your <u>savor</u>!**
(The world needs to <u>taste</u> the <u>distinctiveness</u> of Christianity)

II. **Don't hide your <u>light</u>!**
(The world needs to <u>see</u> the <u>brilliancy</u> of Christianity)



CONCLUSION:

"Be Salt! Be Light!"

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INTRODUCTION:

At the moment of salvation, God delivers us out of the domain of darkness, and transfers us into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13). We become children of light (Eph. 5:8).

"By definition, an influence must be <u>different</u> from that which it influences" (MacArthur, p. 240).

Those who are worldly cannot influence the world.

God saved us to be different. I Peter 2:9 - "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"

We are <u>not</u> to <u>reflect</u> the world (I Jn. 2:15) but to <u>impact</u> it!!

Jesus prayed: "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. . . as Thou didst send me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" (Jn. 17:15-16, 18)

What kind of <u>influence</u> will you be in this world?

"No human being can come into this world without increasing or diminishing the sum total of human happiness, not only of the present but of every subsequent age of humanity. No one can detach himself from this connection. There is no sequestered spot in the universe, no dark niche along the disc of nonexistence to which he can retreat from his relations with others, where he can withdraw the influence of his existence upon the moral destiny of the world. Everywhere his presence or absence will be felt. Everywhere he will have companions who will be better or worse because of him. It is an old saying, and one of the fearful and fathomless statements of import, that we are forming characters for eternity. Forming characters? Whose? Our own or others? Both." (Elihu Burrit, cited by MacArthur, p. 236)

"Ye" - Plural. <u>Every</u> disciple of Christ is to be salt and light.

By stating that we are salt and light in the world, Jesus implies that the world needs salt and light.

"The world needs salt because it is corrupt and it needs light because it is dark" (MacArthur, p. 237)

"The Biblical world view is that the world is corrupted and decayed, that it is dark and darkening" (MacArthur, p. 237)

"Evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" (II Tim. 3:13)

"A college student once reported that his professor told the class that marriage was on the decline because man was evolving to a higher level. Marriage was something that man needed only at the lower stages of his evolutionary development. Now that man had ascended farther up the evolutionary scale, marriage was falling off just as his prehensile tail had done millions of years ago" (MacArthur, p. 238)

It is significant that believers are called "salt" and "light" after the admonition regarding "persecution for righteousness sake" (V. 10-12).

Because of the distinctiveness of "salt and light," because salt stings and light exposes the darkness, persecution will often accompany such a lifestyle which is a rebuke to unrighteousness.

***Make an impact on this world!**

How?

I. Don't lose your savor!
(The world needs to taste the distinctiveness of Christianity)

Mark 9:50 - "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."

Being "salt" means being 100% for Jesus and 100% against that which displeases Jesus (SEE: Lk. 14:33-35).

Salt creates a:

preserving effect - Salt preserves that which is prone toward decay and ruin.

seasoning effect - Salt adds a desirable flavor so as to induce others to want what we have

thirsting effect - Salt makes thirsty those who are not saved.

"Have lost his savor" (morantha) - lit. to play the fool, to become foolish, of salt - to become tasteless, insipid (Robertson)

Don't be a "bland" Christian! Have "spice" in your lifestyle! Godly spice!

If salt loses its distinctive saline flavor; if it loses its sharp, tart useful taste, what good is it?

What can put a salty savor back into a grain of salt that has lost it? Nothing! By what can it become salty again? Nothing!

"It is . . . good for nothing" - tasteless salt is useless!

A Christian who loses his/her distinctive, sharp, pure, invigorating savor is useless to God! Satan would love for you to lose your effectiveness, usefulness, and fruitfulness. His goal is to use his people (unbelievers) to dilute or eradicate the pungency of God's people so that they become rubble under the shoes of the world.

In ancient days when salt was found to be contaminated "it would not be thrown on a garden or field because it would kill whatever was planted. Instead it would be thrown onto a path or road, where it would be gradually ground into the dirt and disappear" (MacArthur, p. 245).

"Cast out" - thrown out into the street.

It is a fearful thing for a Christian who loves God to become a "castaway" (rendered unusable for God). Paul feared being a castaway (I Cor. 9:27) - not meaning that he feared being rejected by God, but rendered disqualified (unusable) by God.

Don't throw away that which makes you distinct in this world!

Don't throw away your:

--moral purity
--integrity
--righteousness
--distinctive fruits (Gal. 5:22)

Don't let anyone or anything rob your saltiness! Don't let your life become tasteless, blah, lukewarm, common, etc.

Sin de-savors salt!

II. Don't hide your light!

(The world needs to see the brilliancy of Christianity)

Just as the moon has no light of itself but is a reflector of the sun, so the Christian has no light of himself, but is a reflector of the Son of God.

Jesus is the Light. SEE: John 1:4-9
John 8:12
John 12:35-36a
II Cor. 4:3-7
Ephes. 5:6-14

The light that we have does not originate with us!

If it did, we would get the glory and not God! (v. 16)

Just as NYC depends upon Con Edison, we depend upon God to give us light!

A Christian who unashamedly shines on the mountain peaks of life cannot be hid.

ILLUS: Children's hymn - "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. . . Let it shine all over New York. . . Won't let Satan blow it out. . . Let it shine till Jesus comes. . . Hide it under a bushel -- No!"

"A hidden light is still light, but it is useless light"

What the world needs is more light! Not more candles! Our city has plenty of candles (Christians), the problem is that not too many are lit in public!

"Earth. . . world" - so that we would not miss the point Jesus uses two terms synonymously. Christians must not merely be "salt" and "light" when they congregate, but must be so before the eyes of the unregenerate lost world of mankind.

"Earth...world" - we can only influence earth, not heaven! Now not later!

The salt must "get out of the salt shaker"

The light must shine where it is needed most - in the darkness.

ILLUS:s See: Humorous illustration depicting the Christian's avoidance of the lost.

Jesus didn't save you so that you could be a secret Christian or an undercover believer. Don't conceal your identity. Don't be ashamed. The only thing we should be ashamed of is sin!

"Candlestick" - lampstand

"It giveth light" - that is its purpose! What is your purpose?

"unto all" - in a dark house, all benefit from the light.

Light reflects
Light exposes
Light guides

"So shine" - to shine in this way

"Before men" - Balance this statement with Matthew 6:1-6. There is a sense in which we do good works to be seen of men.k

Our goal is not to be seen by men, but the result of doing good for men will be that you are seen by them.

"See your good works" - The Christian life is not mere talk that can be heard but it is work that can be seen!

"Works" - plural; God desires more than Easter morning Christians.

"Glorify" - to cause to shine or glow. Does your life cause men to praise and esteem God?

CONCLUSION:

ILLUS: Robert Murray McChayne's influence on others (MacArthur, p. 247)

Why do not some professing Christians shine? They have no light to reflect (never have been saved)

Christians are to leave behind "the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ in everyplace. . ." (II Cor. 2:14)