



THE SALT OF THE EARTH

- › A bit of salt flavours the whole
- › Salt also acts as a preservative
- › If salt loses its saltiness it has no value
- › Aramaic: Salt = wisdom

NOT STATUS BUT FUNCTION

- › The 'you' is plural - speaks to our corporate nature to have influence in the community - the faith community is to make a difference
- › Being salty is not for ourselves but others

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Matthew 5:14-15

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

- › As a light the church acts as an attraction, a guide, a sign, a warning of danger
- › Think of a Lighthouse shining the way home

VISIBLE. NOT HIDDEN

- › The light is put on a lampstand to illuminate the entire house
- › 'You are the light' is plural - referring to a corporate entity
- › Also individual lights shining for Jesus (Philippians 2:15)

II.

The Command

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

BE LIGHT

- › To be salty is an implied imperative - act as salt (v13)
- › 'Let your light shine' - so that others might see your good works
- › So that they look to God and glorify him

CHRIST'S LIGHT

- › We reflect the Light of Christ who is the 'light of the world' (John 8:12; 9:5)
- › We shine, not our own light, but Christ's - as the moon reflects the light of the sun

For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

LIKE LAMPSTANDS

- › We (the church) are to shine like lampstands giving light to the region where we live - Revelation 2:4-3
- › It is not a competition - we merely shine as lights for Jesus

III. The Impact

i. IT COUNTS

What the church does really counts - the faith community flavours and enlightens the world around it

ii. ITS KINGDOM LIVING

The church (and us as participants) have a purpose/mission to live out the kingdom of God

- Our lives mean something, we have a story to tell
- It matters that we exist and live our lives for Jesus

iii. IT REQUIRES FOCUS

The caution is given that we not become side-tracked with secondary concerns

- Lose our saltiness, hide our light under a bushel

We are to stay focused on what really matters

- Our purpose is not to simply live comfortable and self-centred lives

iv. GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED

We are to be salt and light for others so that God is glorified

so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.

Philippians 2:15

- Tyndale Chapel - light comes through the stained glass and a rainbow of colours shine
- so we express the Light of Christ in a rainbow of expressions

v. GOD'S CHARACTER REVEALED

As we 'shine/flavour' - so God is seen as our Loving, caring, Parent (v16b)

- 'Abba' - this is the first time Jesus uses this, his favourite word for God - a caring parent

Our interpersonal relationships communicate the Loving nature of God.