

Sovereign Grace Church

“Salt and Light” outline

June 3, 2018

Matthew 5: 13-16

A little salt brings out the sweetness in things....but too much overwhelms it and of course raises your blood pressure as well! As followers of Jesus we are classified as the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” These are good things. But it is important to remember that we are classified as such only because of our identification with Christ. As salt, Jesus preserves His covenantal promises through times of seeming defeat. And as light, Jesus provides guidance into a life that is full, abundant and never ending. As we follow Jesus and imbibe His character and power into our lives we contribute toward the preservation of the truth and enlighten those around us.

But of course the darkness doesn't want to be enlightened....at least by nature. So we should expect some resistance. It seems that whenever Christians have gotten serious about identifying with their Lord, the world has gotten serious about resisting them. But retreat and seclusion are not the answer. To be light is to necessarily resist darkness. The only way to the end of something is through the middle...and the middle is often through the “valley of Death.” Our commission is to make the “valley of Death” into a “corridor of Light.” It may not be where we would choose to go but it is where our Master leads!

Review: I Cor 1: 26-27; Matt. 5: 11-12; 11: 5

1. You are the Salt of the Earth... v. 13

- **Purpose of Salt**

- **Purpose of the Believer as Salt**
II Chron. 13: 5; Col. 4:6; Psm 89: 34-37; II Cor. 5: 20

- **Purpose of the Believer as Saltless Salt**

2. You are the Light of the World....v. 14-15

- **Purpose of Light**

- **Purpose of the Believer as Light Phil 2: 14-16**

- **Jesus as Light and Life**
John 1:4; 14:6; Isa 42:6; 49: 6; Jn 13: 35

- **Problem of Hidden Lights Lk 11: 33-36**

3. But to what End? v. 16 WSC 1

Questions for Reflection and Conversation

1. **What does the modern phrase “salt of the earth” have to do with Jesus' pronouncement in His sermon? Do the meanings match or is there a difference? How have you been “salt” in your areas of influence?**

2. **Does your Christian testimony illuminate Christ in your circles of influence or obscure Him? Why is it important that our lives match our professions? Why is it important that our professions be true? How can we be enabled to manifest the light of Christ to those around us while still being sinners? Should we be content in our residual sin natures and habitual sins? Should we worry? What can we do about them?**

3. **When folks observe your good works....who do they tend to praise? Who do we want them to praise? How can a Christian receive the world's accolades in a Christ-like way? Is it important to you that your good efforts be recognized by those you seek to serve? Should you take pride in their Not being so recognized?!**

4. **Does the fact that we often lack real ability, wealth, talent or education impede our efforts to be salt and light in the world? Why not? If we find ourselves blessed with natural abilities, wealth, and a good education can we still serve the purpose of glorifying God in our efforts? What must we guard against?**