

SALT & LIGHT

Matthew 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 “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. 16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 MSG ““Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now

that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. “Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.”

We live in a chaotic world filled with fear, violence and uncertainty.

Let's look at the prophetic picture of the end times.

Matthew 24:6-8 “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 “For nation

will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 “All these are the beginning of sorrows.

The Bible teaches us to look around and know the times we are living in.

Matthew 24:10-12 “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

2 Peter 3:3-11 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning

of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

How shall we live in this world?

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

We are to live in a kingdom of Faith.
We are to pursue godliness.

We need to understand the difference between true godliness and mere “form.” of godliness.

The Greek word for “form” means a shape, a silhouette, or an outline, not the full substance.

A lot of people are in the “vicinity” of God and yet they are not becoming more like Jesus.

2 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

To pursue is to go after it, to task, to chase.

In a world that is producing so much fear we need to be a fearless church.

Luke 21:28 “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

When you see these things stand up and look up.

You are the salt of the earth.
You are the light of the world.

We are called to influence our culture.

We are called to be change agents for the glory of God.

The culture of this world is impacting the body of Christ more than the body of Christ is impacting the world.

Culture: The shared and transmitted values, opinions and behaviors of a people group.

Culture: the collective mindset and influences that distinguish the members of a people group, shaping the way they think and live.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The church cannot be silent.

Jesus taught us to go into all the world but don't let the world get into you.

He wants us to love the people of the world but not the systems of the world.

1. Know where you stand and stand there.

As Christ followers we stand with Jesus.
Our identity cannot be in a fallen culture.
Our identity cannot be in a broken world.

2. Live in and according to His Word.

God's Word is our compass.

God's Word is the answer to all life's questions.

3. Get planted and identify with his church.

Get established and connected to the organism Jesus gave his life for.

Ephesians 5:25 Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Psalms 92:13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

4. LIVE AND LOVE OUT LOUD

Faith is not a private matter.

Don't hide your light under a basket.

You are the light of the world.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of grace.

This is a gospel of unconditional love.

Come as you are just don't stay that way.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Grace is not acceptance and tolerance.

If I accept and tolerate deception in your life I really don't love you.

We have to know what we believe and why we believe it, and we must deliver that message in a vessel of grace.

No one can resist un conditional love.