

THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

Chapter 4 Lesson 1

Chapter's Subject: The Christian's Influence Matt. 5:13-16

Lesson's Main Point: Salt of the Earth (Matt. 5:13)

Today's Study: Distinctiveness Matt. 5:13

1. Character
2. Commission
3. Course of Action
4. Caution

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

Today's lesson was introduced in Chapter 2 Lesson 12, but due to volume of material I had to present the detailed discussion separately.

INTRODUCTION

A. Summary of Matt. 5:13-16

Obviously, the passage (Matt. 5:13-16) is divided in two sections and will be discussed under the topics: (a) **Distinctiveness (Matt. 5:13)** and (b) **Dispel (cause to vanquish) Darkness (Matt. 5:14-16)**. The following is a summary of the text which means some of the information shared will be repeated in the study for emphasis.

1. Distinctiveness Matt. 5:13

(a) If you have studied the main study, The Righteous Pursues Holiness, you should have noticed the frequent use of "distinctiveness." The repetition is very important and necessary especially, portrayed in so many situations where the Church (Universal), has adapted to its corrupted environment in which it has been called to be a witness to the glory of God. God be praised for those who have been maintaining the standard of righteousness and true holiness. At this time more details are not possible but note the following:

- (1) The Church is a "called out community" ... that means it is distinctively different.
- (2) We saw in our study that there are three things that occur in a sanctified life of which the first is "separation from the world unto God," beloved, that is distinctiveness.
- (3) If you are a genuine born again believer, distinctiveness will be obvious by your practical lifestyle.

(b) **The essence of Matt. 5:13 is distinctiveness.**

- (1) Salt is distinctly different from the thing upon which it is used. By nature and purpose it is different.

- (2) Genuine believers differ from the world; they are distinctively different by nature and purpose.
 - (3) **By nature believers are a new creation, born of God** (2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Peter 1:23).
 - Remember, regeneration recreates spiritual life in the human heart (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23-24).
 - The nature that was depraved and dead because of sin is given spiritual life (Titus :5).
 - (4) **By purpose, believers are to penetrate and change the very taste of the earth. They are salt!!**
- (c) **Salt of the Earth**
- (1) The believer must be salt, which is available to give flavor and to preserve from corruption.
 - (2) Hence believers and the Church must be godly examples in the world and must resist the moral decay and corruption that is so evident in the society in which we live.
 - Churches that become lukewarm quench the power of the Holy Spirit and cease to resist the prevailing spirit in the world; and eventually it will be “cast out” by God (Rev. 3:14-22); unless it repents (Rev. 3:19).
 - They consequently will be “trodden under foot of men,” that is those who are lukewarm will be destroyed by the ways and values of an ungodly society (Deut. 28:13, 48; Judges 2:20-22).

2. Dispel Darkness Matt. 5:14-16

(a) Darkness/Light

- (1) Both are distinctively different . . . the darkness that I am referring to is unrighteousness and the light righteousness.
 - Even in the physical sense they (darkness/light) are both different ... distinctively different.
 - We do have some days that are cloudy and somewhat dark but even then there remains a distinction between darkness and light.
- (2) Jesus Christ was specific when He said, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.” (John 3:19)
- (3) Darkness and light cannot be integrated to become one; no matter what effort made, there will never be such thing as light/darkness with reference to it as being one.
 - They are separate, as oil and water.
 - Likewise one is either a saint or a sinner.
 - Satan is a liar!! There is no such thing as a sinning saint!! (As a reminder, a saint is one who is a genuinely born again believer and does not habitually practice sin (1 John 3:1-10; etc.)

- And there is no neutral ground!! No demilitarized zone . . . one is either a saint or a sinner.

(4) Note carefully the following references (others can be added)

- **Children of darkness ... that's who we were!! BUT NO MORE!!**
 - Read Eph. 5
 - Note carefully Vv. 8-21
 - **Eph. 5:11-12 Amplified Bible**
"Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them. For it is a shame to speak of or mention the things that [such people] practice in secret."
- **The admonition to cast off darkness is clearly seen in the Scriptures.**
 - Read Rom. 13:11-14
 - **Rom. 13:12-14 NKJV**
"The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lust."
- **By His grace we are taken out of darkness into the marvelous light!!**
1 Peter 2:9 Amplified Bible
"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation; [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. [Exod. 19:5, 6]"

(b) **Enormous Compliment**

- (1) God is light (1 John 1:5). Jesus Christ is the Light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5).
- (2) Jesus said to His disciples: "You are the light of the world." (Matt. 5:14)
 - In other words, the believer is what God and Christ are ... **"light!"**
 - No greater compliment could be paid to the believer!!
 - **BUT NOTE: To be identified with God is an enormous responsibility as well as a command.**
 - Many would prefer to focus only on the complementary aspect and not the responsibility with which this compliment comes.
 - A statement that I have used so many times is fitting to be used at this point: "Where there is responsibility there will be accountability."
 - One Scripture to consider is Matt. 25:14-30.
 - We reflect the light when we make use of the opportunities to shine for Him (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; 1 Peter 2:12)
 - **The charge beloved is to "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!!"**
- (3) Because Jesus Christ is the "Light of the world (John 8:12), believers are workers together with Him and as a result it is a honor bestowed upon them.

(4) **What light is and does the believer is to be and do.**

- What the “Light of the world” (Jesus Christ) is, the believer need to emulate and live.
 - All Christians (genuine born again Christians) are lights (Eph. 5:8)
 - We must shine as lights (Phil. 2:15)
 - **“OH TO BE LIKE HIM!!”** May our lives be pictures of Jesus Christ, projecting the heavenly rays, reflecting the “Light of the world”, Jesus Christ, to those who are in darkness!
 - **Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun onto the darkened side of the earth, so the Church (Universal) is to reflect the rays of the “Sun of righteousness” (Mal. 4:2) on a world darkened by sin.**

B. Christian Influence

1. Christian

- (a) Who is a Christian has been addressed in chapter 1 as well as other chapters in the main study (The Righteous Pursues Holiness). We have discussed and defined such terms as: born again, regeneration, justification, etc. Contrary to the idea conveyed by so many a Christian is not just someone affiliated with a local church community or belongs to a particular denomination, etc. The Christian is someone who has admitted his lost condition , acknowledges Jesus Christ as his Savior, etc. and committed his life wholly to Christ; this person has experience a personal intimate encounter with God through Jesus Christ, experiencing a transformed life, a new life (John 1:12, 13; etc.)
- (b) **In identifying the “righteous person” we noted the following . . . he/she:**
- (1) **Confides** in and surrender himself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
 - (2) **Clothed** in Christ’s righteousness
 - (3) **Created anew in righteousness and true holiness.**
 - (4) **Commits** himself to a life of obedience in pursuit of holy living.
- (c) Since we are briefly reviewing the definition of who is a “Christian,” I must note and unfortunately so but it is necessary to mention that there are so many who have adapted to the “Hollywood type of Christianity” which is spiritually devastating. Details are not necessary but it is sad to see so many who are more interested in being entertained instead of experiencing an encounter with God; people who have no time for the will, way and Word of God but for worldliness are in a lost state no matter what they profess. **Irrespective of this deviation the Church remains to be “A called out community in a hostile world.”**

2. Influence

- (a) Two definitions:
- (1) The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself.
 - (2) The power to change or affect someone or something: the power to cause changes without forcing them to happen.
- (b) Why is the “Christian’s Influence” so important?

- (1) We must make use of the opportune time (Eph. 5:16).
- (2) We must make hay while the sun shines (John 9:4).
- (3) Too many live in darkness; (sin) which leads to death (James 1:13-15); but the light dispels darkness (Isa. 9:2). The world needs the Light of the world (John 1:7-9) ; believers are to be lights (Matt. 5:14-17)
- (4) Sin is corruption; which defiles and destroys; salt purifies and preserves, etc. therefore the world needs salt to be applied in order to experience deliverance. Believers are to be salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13)
- (5) Etc.
- (6) The most effective way that we can communicate the “good news” **is by the life that we live.** It is what the world sees in us that draws men to Jesus Christ. Jesus has placed emphasis on this fact by showing the importance of the “Christian” Influence” by referring to us as “salt” and “light’ of the world (Matt. 5:13-16).

C. Quote from Matthew Henry (In reference to Matt. 5:1-16)

“Christ had lately called His disciples, and told them that they should be fishers of men (*Matt. 4:18-29, NB v. 19 ... insert mine*) here He tells them further what He designed them to be – **the salt of the earth, and lights of the world, that they might be indeed know what it was expected they should be.**”

“Mankind, living in ignorance and wickedness, were as a vast heap, ready to be purified; Jesus sent forth His disciples, by their lives and doctrines to season it with knowledge and grace. If they are not such as they should be, they are salt that has lost its savor. **If a man can take up the profession of Christ, and yet remain graceless, no other doctrine, no other means, can make him profitable.** Our light must shine, by doing such good works as men may see. What is between God and our souls, must be kept to ourselves; but that which is of itself open to the sight of men, we must study to make suitable our profession, and praise worthy. We must glorify God.”

D. What Does Being Salt and Light Mean?

1. **To be salt means:** To deliberately seek to influence people by showing them the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. Let us penetrate, purify, protect, and propagate that which God has given to us that they (the world) may experience the goodness of God and taste and see that He is good.
2. **To be Light** is a symbol used to mean awareness, knowledge and understanding. Let us shine with the glory of God that those in the darkness of sin will be liberated and live to glorify God.

E. The Outline for Matt. 5:1-16

1. **DISTINCTIVENESS Matt. 5:13**
 - (a) **Character v. 13a**
“You are salt ...”

- (1) Salt is Distinctive
- (2) Salt Preserves
- (3) Salt Penetrates
- (4) Salt Flavors
- (5) Salt is Quiet
- (6) Salt Spreads
- (7) Salt is Irrepressible

(b) **Commission v. 13 a**

“You are salt of the earth ...”

- (1) Reality Recognized
- (2) Relaxed in Zion
- (3) Reproductive

(c) **Course of Action v. 13a**

“You are salt of the earth ...”

- (1) Earthly Ministry
- (2) Enriched Lives
- (3) Encompass the World

(d) **Caution v. 13b**

“... but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden underfoot of men.”

- (1) Background
- (2) Backslider
- (3) Bland

2. **DISPEL DARKNESS Matt. 5:14-16**

(a) **Character v. 14a**

“You are light ...”

- (1) Light is clear and pure
- (2) Light Penetrates
- (3) Light Enlightens
- (4) Light Reveals
- (5) Light Guides
- (6) Light Strips Away the Darkness
- (7) Light Routs Chaos
- (8) Light Discriminates Between the Right Way and the Wrong Way
- (9) Light Warns
- (10) Light Projects

(b) **Commission v. 14a**

“You are the light of the world ...”

- (1) World Mission
- (2) Wherever You Are

(c) **Compelling Witness Vv. 14-15**

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.” (KJV)

- (1) Luminary
- (2) Lessons
- (3) Light in Demand

(d) **Convincing Evidence v. 16**

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- (1) Good Works
- (2) Glorify God

Matt. 5:13-16 Amplified Bible

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste (its strength, its quality) how can its saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything anymore but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light and put it under a peck measure, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence and your praise worthy, noble, and good deeds and recognize and honor and praise and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Two Quotes on “Salt of the Earth.”

1. Elliot’s Commentary

“Call to a prophetic work of preserving the earth from moral putrescence (*putrescence: decaying, festering decomposing etc. ... insert mine*) and decay. The general reference to this antiseptic action of salt is (as in Col. 4:6 and possibly in the symbolic act of Elisha, 2 King 2:21) enough to give an adequate meaning to the words, but the special reference to the sacrificial use of salt in Mark 9:49 make it probable enough that there was some allusion to that thought also here (*in Matt. 5:13*).

2. Meyers Commentary

“A figure of the power which counteracts corruption, and preserves in a sound condition – the effect which salt has upon water (2 Kings 2:20), meat, and such like. Thus the ministry of the disciples was destined by the communication of the divine truth to oppose the spiritual corruption and powerlessness of men, and to be the means of bringing about their moral soundness and power of life. . . . Without salt humanity would have fallen prey to spiritual decay Jesus thus throws down the thought of universal destination into the souls of the disciples as a spark to be preserved.”

The essence of the above two quote is to describe the necessity of Christians who are needed to bring balance and hope to an otherwise corrupted and dying world.

Jesus Christ is still the ONLY answer for the world today and we are to be salt and light to His honor, praise and glory!!!

Please note: Matt. 5:14-16 will be discussed in Lesson 2.

DISTINCTIVENESS Matt. 5:13

A. Character v. 13 a

“You are salt ...”

1. Salt is Distinctive

- (a) I know that we have discussed distinctiveness several times before but keep in mind its importance!
 - (1) In Isa. 6 we have the commission of Isaiah
 - In verse 11, he asked God for how long was his assignment
 - God’s response was, until no one remains (v. 11)
 - (2) We need to continue this emphasis on distinctiveness, especially in the light of what is being lived out by so many who profess Christ.
- (b) One of the many signs of the end time is a deviation from the way of righteousness to a lifestyle of iniquity.
 - (1) **Matt. 24:12 KJV**

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”
 - (2) See also 1 Tim. 5:12; Rev. 2:4
 - (3) Sin is rampant (yes spreading unchecked) within the Church (Universal), many giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of ungodly men (1 Tim. 4:1note Vv. 1-11)
 - In regards to the inconsistencies within the Church (Universal) various sources of media seem to enjoy publishing these unsavory and hurtful stories that embarrass and hurt the good name of the Church (**but despite it all the Church moves on!!**).
 - Sometime in 2015, a world leader of one of the largest denomination appealed to its leaders for tolerance and acceptance of same sex marriages. God help us!! (This I do say we do not condemn anyone but we do not condone what is inconsistent with righteousness).
 - The difference that must remain between the Church and the world is crumbling in many areas as the people of God are adapting more and more to the evil environment in which they serve.
- (c) No matter the compromise of standards, the deviation from the pathway of righteousness and true holiness, **God is never without a witness!! NEVER!!!**
 - (1) In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, Noah found grace in the eyes of God (Gen. 6, NB v. 9)

- (2) Amidst the hatred, envy, etc. enslavement in a foreign land, exposed to a most alluring temptation, Joseph stood for God (Gen. 39 NB v. 9).
- (3) Elijah felt that he was the only loyal servant of God remaining but was made aware of the faithful remnant (1 Kings 19 NB v.18).
- (4) When everyone else seemed to be enchanted by their new environment, entangled in the ungodly way of living, engrafted to pagan practices, etc. there were some young men who were still enlightened by the righteous standards of the True and Living God:
- They refused the kings dainties (Dan. 1, NB v.8)
 - They refused to dance to every drum beat (Dan. 3, NB Vv. 16-18)
 - Daniel would not deviate from his disciplined devotional life, no matter the consequences (Dan. 6)
- (d) As it relates to the Church (Universal) the distinction must remain: we are still a **“called out people.”**
- (1) This fact of distinction is evidently clear in our current study text, Christ has clearly stated: **“You are salt.”**
- **Salt is totally different from the food or object upon which it is applied!**
- (2) The power of salt lies in this difference!! The Church must remain the Church without getting contaminated. Believers, just as salt, are to be different from the world!!
- The power of their lives and their testimony lies in them being different, definitively distinctive!!
 - This is fundamentally important and yet in so many situations grossly neglected or misunderstood. Believers will be able to maintain the victory of the new life in Jesus Christ only by remaining distinctive. **Note James 1:27a**
 - **KJV:** “Unspotted and uncontaminated from the world.”
 - **NIV:** “Religion that God accepts as pure and faultless ...”
 - **Amplified Bible:** “Unspotted and uncontaminated from the world.”
 - There is so much more than I have time to say in regards to “power,” but this I will briefly note:
 - There are many explanations made as to why there is not more **genuine** demonstration of power within the Church (Universal) and such matter is of great concerns and rightly so.
 - Power belongs to God (Psa. 62:11; Rom. 16:25) and He is our source of power by the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; etc.)
 - This we ought to seriously accept that power is not obtained without purity. **Purity comes before power!!**
 - We are born again and sanctified before receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 - Likewise purity must be maintained for a continuation of power and this we will see further in the lesson.

- **Remember, the power of salt lies in its distinctiveness!! We are salt!! Let us maintain our distinctiveness!!**

(e) See also Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; 1 John 2:15-16.

2. Salt Preserves

(a) Definition for “preservation.”

- (1) To keep up (maintain)
- (2) To prepare (food or any perishable substance) so as to resist decomposition or fermentation.
- (3) To keep (something) in its original state or in good condition.
- (4) To prevent food from decaying.

(b) Salting

- (1) As a child I saw this at work, at least before we went fulltime to more modern means of preservation.
 - My grandfather loved having a pork leg preserved in salt but later as things got more modern he discontinued the process but always had ham in his refrigerator.
 - My parents had a grocery shop and there were some items that were preserved in a salt solution, for example salted mackerel etc.; cod fish which although was dried fish was (is) preserved in salt.

(2) Salting is the preservation of food with a dry edible salt.

- It is one of the oldest methods of preserving food.
- Salting is used because most bacteria, fungi and other potentially pathogenic (producing disease) organisms cannot survive in a highly salty environment.

➤ **This is a powerful statement when applied spiritually because sin doesn’t do well in a highly charged righteous environment!!**

➤ Many examples in Scriptures of the great significance Christ and His Church makes; here are a few:

- That’s why He came to earth: **Matt. 1:21**; John 3:17; Acts 5:31; Heb. 7:25.
- That was His mission! His priority!!: **Luke 19:10; John 4:34**; Luke 2:49; John 9:4; Acts 10:38
- That is the mandate He has given to the Church: **Matt. 28:19-20**; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:4-8
- **We must be salt! Salt is our testimony by our exemplary lives and the message of the cross of Jesus Christ!! The world needs Jesus Christ!!**

(c) Salt preserves!! Jesus said, believers are salt of the earth!!

(1) As we noted from the definitions and brief explanations above, here are some benefits of salting, which is applicable to the believers as salt:

- Salt keeps things from decaying.
- It removes what has the tendency to impede, corrupt, etc.

- Salt also cleanses, it disinfects; removes that which is harmful.
- (2) **Believers, just as salt, are to cleanse and preserve the world!**
 - They are to disinfect the world and keep the germs of the world from causing things to go bad!!
 - They are to save the world from corruption!!
 - See 1 Peter 1:22-25.

3. Salt Penetrates

- (a) The doctrine of the gospel is as salt.
- (1) It is penetrating, quick and powerful (Heb. 4:12)
 - (2) It reaches the very heart (Acts 2:37)
 - (3) It is cleansing (Isa. 1:18)
 - It goes in and removes dirt and stain, etc. makes your garment like new.
 - In fact it makes you a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - (4) It comes with a saving power (Rom. 1:16)
- (b) In defining “penetrate” and as applicable to our study, I will note two definitions:
- (1) To enter the interior of.
 - (2) To enter and diffuse itself through.
- (c) Salt penetrates! It gets into!! It brings about a change!!
- (1) Salt would be of no use in cooking if it stayed only on the surface then falls off or remains on the surface in the pot.
 - (2) Salt inserts a new quality, substance, and life.
 - (3) It changes that upon which it is applied.
 - (4) Believers are like salt; they likewise penetrate the world and insert new life into it.
 - (5) **Col. 3:10 Amplified Bible**
 “That you may (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition.”

4. Salt Flavors!!

- (a) Salt is a basic ingredient that cannot be taken for granted.
- (1) Its use and value varies and proven to be necessary, therefore it is of great significance.
 - (2) As a result its requirement cannot be overlooked or neglected.
- (b) An everlasting covenant is called a covenant of salt (Num. 18:19).
- (1) The gospel is an everlasting gospel (1 Peter 1:18-25).
 - (2) Covenants in the OT period included sacrifices (primarily animals) and salt was required in all sacrifices (Lev. 2:13; Num. 18:19).
 - (3) Christ’s disciples (salt of the earth and partakers of the New Covenant ... Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:25), have learned the doctrines of the gospel and in turn they are to teach others (Matt. 28:19-20)

- (4) Christians and especially ministers are salt of the earth. No matter the rejection, opposition, persecution, etc. we are an essential ingredient ... we are the salt of the earth. The gospel that we take to the world enhances and enriches lives!
- (c) As instruments in the hand of God, believers do make a great difference ... salt flavors.
 - (1) Salt influences the taste of things.
 - (2) Salt takes a bland tasteless, food and makes it relishing.
 - (3) Believers flavor and influence the world for Christ.
 - (4) They (believers) take the bland (tasteless insipid) and brings into effect that which is relishing.
- (d) The effects of the believers life is far reaching and life transforming.
 - (1) The Christian brings good taste just as salt is relishing (Psa. 34:8).
 - (2) In a world of hate, bitterness, etc. the believer brings genuine fellowship, a refreshing holy odor of love and unity (Psa. 133).
 - (3) To the lonely, neglected, needy, etc. the believers are a source of help in time of need (Matt. 25:31-40; James 1:27)
 - (4) Amidst the chaos, uncertainty, etc. that characterize the world the believer brings the "Good News" of great tidings (Luke 2:10; 8:1)

5. Salt is Quiet

- (a) Salt works quietly and effectively; one application of salt will diffuse its savor far and wide.
- (b) Salt is more like leaven (rising agent) in dough (flour), it spreads effectively throughout the whole dough.
- (c) It is visible, but it works silently, making no noise whatsoever, during its work.
 - (1) Believers, the salt of the earth, are to work quietly and discreetly. There is no need to draw attention from the crowd to self (Matt. 6:1, 5, 16; 23:5; etc.). Earthly honors hinder faith (John 5:44).
 - (2) We do not have to seek from the crowd popularity, power, prestige, etc. but simply be what God requires of us and naturally the results will be awesome, **as God works out His will through lives that are surrendered, obeying Him as He directs.**
- (d) There is far too many who will do good deeds only in the eyes of the public or solely for the praise of men.
 - (1) This is not limited to the world but the Church (Universal) as well.
 - (2) This practice is also evident in families, for example, spouses compete among each other or they are loving and affectionate, etc. **only** in the eyes of the public.
 - (3) Jesus addressed this external display for example in Matt. 6:1-18, where He addressed "Three Religious Practices." Note briefly:

- **Almsgiving Matt. 6:2-4** ... here He notes there is no need to sound a trumpet as the heathen do.
- **Prayer Matt. 6:5-15** ... here He notes the need to avoid ostentatious (showy display, excessive display) prayers as the hypocrites do.
- **Fasting Matt. 6:16-18** ... here He notes the need to avoid disfiguring your faces, etc. to call attention to your fasting; that is the way hypocrites fast.
- **Matt. 6:2 Amplified Bible**
 “Thus, whenever you give to the poor do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites in the synagogues and in the streets like to do, that they may be recognized and honored and praised by men. Truly, I tell you, they have their reward in full already.”
- **Also note carefully Matt. 6:3-4**
Matt. 6:4 Amplified Bible
 So that your deeds of charity may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

(e) **You are salt . . . no need for a fashion show lifestyle, let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you!! Quietly but effectively it will do wonders!!**

1 Peter 3:4 Amplified Bible

“But let it be the inward adorning and beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which [is not anxious or wrought up, but] is very precious in the sight of God.”

6. Salt Spreads

- (a) This was noted above; we saw that although salt is quiet it spreads through the whole dough. I will briefly expand on this thought and later it will be further addressed in our discussion when we look at “Commission,” and “Course of Action.”
- (b) You may have had someone say to you, “I have heard many things about you.”
- (1) Generally from someone you are meeting for the first time.
 - (2) Sometimes we may ask, “Is it good or bad?”
 - (3) **How reassuring for us to live soberly, godly and righteous lives because what we do speaks loud and clear , reaches far and wide,**
- (c) Salt spreads all about.
- (1) A sprinkle of salt has widespread effect.
 - (2) Believers as salt spread and our testimony go far and wide.
 - (3) **Poem: “I Am My Neighbors Bible” (Also quoted in the main study)**
 I am my neighbors Bible
 He reads me when we meet
 Today he reads me in my home-
 Tomorrow, in the street.
 He may be relative or friend
 Or slight acquaintance be;
 He may not even know my name,

Yet he is reading me.

And pray, who is this neighbor,
 Who reads me day by day,
 To learn if I am living right,
 And walking as I pray?
 Oh, he is with me always,
 To criticize or to blame;
 So worldly-wise in his own eyes,
 And "Sinner" is his name.

Dear Christian friends and sisters,
 If we could only know,
 How faithfully the world records
 Just what we say and do;
 Oh, we would write our record plain,
 And comes in time to see
 Our worldly neighbor won to Christ
 While reading you and me.

(d) Beloved, salt spreads!! Let the world see Jesus Christ in us!!

(1) Consider these references as you spread God's love and goodness to others by your Christlike life. As salt you spread your godly life:

- Glorify God (Matt. 5:16)
- Enriches life (1 Tim. 6:18)
- Furnish a pattern for imitation (Titus 2:7; also 2 Tim. 2:14)
- Tends to summon others to their task (Heb. 10:24)
- Demonstrate the reality of faith (James 2:17-18. 1 Peter 2:12)

(2) **Let your life glow with Jesus Christ**

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me
 All His wonder, compassion and purity
 Oh Thou Spirit divine, all my nature refine
 Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me

(3) See also Acts 4:20; Col. 4:1; 1 Thess. 4:11-12.

7. Salt is Irrepressible

"Irrepressible": cannot be repressed or restrained; strong; compelling; etc.

(a) Once salt is applied, it cannot be resisted; it cannot be stopped.

(1) Have you ever used salt instead of some other seasoning or applied it to your drink instead of sugar?

(2) The result of applying salt is effective and long lasting.

(b) **A believer's salt is his testimony (especially his practical life), it is irrepressible, it cannot be denied, and it cannot be stopped!!**

- (c) History proves the long lasting value of the Church in the world.
- (1) Leaders throughout the centuries have made all out efforts to stop the Church, to destroy it, but they are gone and the Church remains; others are trying but our testimony is irrepensible.
- (2) **The forces of hell cannot stop the Church!!!**
- You have heard of the catacombs.
 - You have heard of what occurred in the Am-phi Theater in Rome.
 - The burning of believers at the stakes
 - The burying Christians alive.
 - Burying believers with their heads above the ground only to be beheaded with blades projecting from chariots.
 - Believers were thrown to ferocious animals.
 - Believers experiencing various means of torture and sever persecution
 - There were others efforts to repress, restrain, to wipe out ...
 - Efforts to eradicate the Word of God (The Bible)
 - We have through the centuries witnessed the relentless efforts of skeptics; in fact we have the Muslim groups that have been determined to destroy the Church referring to Christians as infidels (they too have beheaded Christians). **However, the Church is alive and well and moving on!!**
 - Blood may have been spilled, lives loss, terror seems to prevail, and the persecutions continue but someone has said **“The blood of believers is the seed of the Church!”**
 - They have tried and will continue to make all efforts to extinguish the flame of the gospel of Jesus Christ but the Church will continue to glow with fervent white heat!!!
 - Tyrants, dictators, persecutors, critics, etc. cannot stop the Church!!
- Matt. 16:18 Amplified Bible**
 “And I tell you, Peter [Greek, *Petros* – a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, *petra* – a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].

B. Commission Matt. 5:13a

“You are salt of the earth ...,”

1. Reality Recognized

- (a) There are far too many who are living in a state of denial and while we will not discuss this devastating situation, it is a regrettable and destructive way to live.
- (1) King Saul was one of those who never accepted his true fallen condition, why it occurred and sincerely turn to God. Unfortunately as a result of his continued denial we have all witnessed the consequences and his awful end.

- (2) There are many other examples found in the Scriptures, for example King Ahab (example see 1 Kings 18 and note verses 17 and 18).
- (3) **“Living in another state.”** I am sure that you have heard that statement before, which refers to those who continue to live in a state of denial. They deny the facts about themselves no matter how destructive it is to them and to others.
- (b) There are far too many believers who have seen the evil that exist in the world and still do not know what the purpose of the Church in the world is!
- (c) **The world is the place where believers are to move about as salt; in other words, it is where we live and minister the “good news.”**
- (1) Because without Jesus Christ the world is insipid and tasteless.
- (2) Because despite its external glow, it is decaying and morally corrupt.
- (3) Because the world is corrupted and foul.
- Today’s world is like the antediluvian world (see Gen. 6); it is ripe and ready for destruction because of its gross immorality.
 - Jesus Christ said such deviation from moral standards would reoccur in the last days (see Matt. 24, NB Vv. 36-39).
 - We need to face the reality of the conditions of the times and do what must be done, to the glory of God!! (Gen. 6:12; 2 Tim. 3:1, 2; Eph. 5:15, 16; Col. 4:5).

To the work! To the work! We are servants of God,
 Let us follow the path that the Master has trod.
 With the balm of His counsel our strength to renew,
 Let us do with our might what our hands find to do
 To the work! To the work! There is labor for all.
 For the kingdom of darkness and error shall fall;
 And the name of Jehovah exalted shall be,
 In the loud swelling chorus, “Salvation is free!”

Refrain
 Toiling on, toiling on,
 Toiling on, toiling on;
 Let us hope, let us watch,
 And labor till the Master comes.

- (d) **Beloved! Many believers have yet to face the reality that we are commissioned people!!**
- (1) Those who are slumbering need to be awakened (Eph. 5:14, also Vv. 15-18).
- (2) We have a mandate from Jesus Christ!!
- We are all acquainted with Matt. 28:19-20 but not all have sincerely made it foremost in their ministry.
 - See also Mark 13:10; 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-49.

- **2 Cor. 5:20a Amplified Bible**
“So we are Christ’s ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. ...”
- Read also Rom. 10, NB Vv. 13-15.
-

2. Relaxed in Zion

- (a) Too many believers live as though they are already in heaven.
- (1) As far as they are concerned they are safe and secure from all alarm, why should they be concerned about the lost.
 - (2) They do not pay attention to the needs that exist around them although the world is morally corrupt, bankrupt of God, decaying and desperately in need of salt to purify, etc.
 - (3) While on earth, believers are called to salt and flavor the earth, not heaven.
- (b) You have heard the phrase: “So heavenly minded they are no earthly good.”
- (1) There is more to be said about this controversial phrase that we have time to discuss. However, note briefly:
 - The fact is any professed believer who is useless in this word is because he is overtaken by worldliness.
 - When Christians cease to focus on God and the things of God they, as a result become ineffective.
 - (2) The genuinely heaven bound believer who is divinely connected will seek to be involved in soul winning.
 - (3) It is a fact that we will not be able to take all men to Christ but we can take Christ to all men. This is no time to be indifferent and live in denial of our God given responsibilities.
 - (4) Beloved! We are spiritual debtors!!
 - We are covenant people and we have an obligation to be **“Salt of the earth!!**
 - See Psa. 116:12; Rom. 1:14; 1 Cor. 4:7; 6:20; 2 Cor. 8:9; 1 John 3:16
- Amos 6:1 Amplified Bible**
“WOE TO those who are at ease in Zion and to those on the mountain of Samaria who are careless and feel secure, the notable men of the chief [because chosen by God] of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes! {Luke 6:24, 25}.”
- (5) The Jewish leaders were insensitive to the need of a fellow Jew despite his severe critical condition (Luke 10:21-37). Let us not close our eyes to the needs of perishing souls; we are commissioned to be “salt of the earth.”
- (c) Much of the laziness, etc., the indifference that we are witnessing in the Church (Universal) happens because many are relaxed in their comfort zones and have no desire to be otherwise minded.
- (1) There are many reasons why this attitude of complacency prevails in the Church of which some are:

- They glory in their church's popularity, in having great programs in place, etc. but have overlooked the need for **God to genuinely** lead, guiding them to have activities centered on soul winning; not just adding members but genuinely involve in kingdom building.
 - So many are excited about their local church community because they are being entertained; while their souls starve and they become spiritually malnourished. They are engulfed in pleasure seeking and while we celebrate God joyfully (Psa. 100; etc.), we must focus on the things of God which also includes producing fruits (**souls ... Rom. 1:114-15; righteousness ... Rom. 6:20-23; Fruit of the Spirit ... Gal. 5:22-23**).
 - Too many within our churches are self-driven, ego motivated; placing emphasis on I, me and myself and not on the **"perfect will of God."**
 - Etc.
- (2) The Amalekites, after invading several cities including Ziklag, were in a state of relaxation and revelry (1 Sam. 30, NB v. 16)
- The Amalekites were so engrossed in their celebration that seemingly they were unprepared for any rebuttal . . . they became indifferent and insensitive and most likely intoxicated.
 - We know the outcome when David and his men attacked (see 1 Sam. 30:17-20)
 - We (the Church) cannot afford to be distracted, or become indifferent to our high calling in Jesus Christ!! God expects us to be "salt of the earth."

3. Reproductive!!

- (a) One of the beautiful things about a married couple is the propagation of the human race.
- (1) Man's effort to redefine marriage, the family and all other related atrocities that are gaining popularity among so many nations of the world are definitely the works of the devil and that will not stand, the day of accountability is coming!!
- (2) God has thus ordained for a man and a woman (Adam and Eve not Adam and Adam or Eve and Eve) to be joined in holy wedlock and thus be a means to reproduce and while there are so many irregularities facing the family, the reality of reproducing is a factor that cannot be denied.
- (b) It is God's desire for the Church to be fruitful (John 15:1-8; etc.). We (believers) will not be reproductive if we only remain within the walls of our local church building (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; etc.) and we will not be as effective as we should be if our place of worship lacks genuine love (1 Co. 13; 1 Peter 1:1-25; etc.)
- (c) **There is a sense in which the Church is the salt factory and the world is the market place for the salt.**

- (1) No manufacturer produces and stores all his production in a warehouse (except for temporary storage) but seeks market for sales of the items produced.
 - (2) The Church has the most valuable, most essential and most necessary commodity for the world and it is free! (Isa. 55)
 - (3) There is too much salt being stored and hoarded within the walls of our local church communities.
 - There is not enough salt being sent out into the market place despite the dire need worldwide.
 - The result? The world is not being salted enough and souls are perishing!!
 - (4) Too many within the Church (Universal) never share the: Good News” not even with family members despite the fact that “We Have a Story to Tell to the Nations.”
 - (5) See Luke 10:2; John 4:35; Gal. 6:9; etc.
- Luke 10:2 KJV**
 “Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.”

C. Course of Action (Matt. 5:13a

“... of the earth.”

1. Earthly Ministry

- (a) Note a critical point: believers are the salt of the earth not of heaven.
 - (1) They can do nothing to salt heaven.
 - (2) They cannot penetrate, flavor or preserve heaven.
 - (3) Any relationship whatsoever they have is a gift from heaven.
 - (4) However, believers are salt of the earth; they can penetrate, flavor and preserve the earth.
- (b) To be designated to be salt of the earth is an encouragement and support even in places where believers are persecuted for righteousness sake (Matt. 5:10-12)
 - (1) With the cruelty, etc. meted out to Christians throughout the centuries, the world is not worthy of such committed lives (Heb. 11, NB v. 38) but we have a story to tell to the nations!! (Matt. 28:19-20; etc.)
 - Believers are not saved because of our goodness, note Rom. 5... the price for our redemption was paid: (a) When we were ungodly v. 6 (b) When we were sinners v. 8 (c) We were His enemies v.10 (d) But despite it all He willingly paid the price for us Rom. 5:1-11.
 - Oh yes!! He first loved us!! (1 John 4, NB Vv. 9-10).
- (c) **God made earth His mission field because of man’s transgression**
 - (1) Promised from the fall of man (**Gen. 3:15**) and predicted in so many Messianic Prophecies (Gen 3:15; Deut. 18:15; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9; etc.
 - (2) We serve **One God** who manifests Himself in three persons (**1 John 5:7**; Matt. 4:16-17; 28:19; John 14:26; 2 Cor. 13:14).

- (3) Jesus Christ is Creator; He is God (**John 1:1-3**; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 3:9; Col. 3:9).
- (4) The preeminence of Christ is seen for example in **Col. 1:15-20**.
- (5) Jesus Christ condescend to the form of a servant for our redemption (**Phil. 2:7-8**; Luke 22:27; John 1:4, 5).
- (6) The ultimate price was paid because of our transgression (**Isa.53, NB Vv. 4, 6**; Matt. 8:17; 20:28; John 19:17).
- (d) Despite the fact that Christians are rejected, scorned, hated, criticized, persecuted; etc. we are essentially important and needed; **we are the salt of the earth ... our ministry is to salt the earth!!**

2. Enriched Lives

(a) BELIEVERS MUST BE SALT THEMSELVES!!

- (1) **You cannot help others to be what you are not!!!**
- (2) **If you do not know Christ intimately and personally, you cannot be His ambassador!!**
- (3) One of the problems within the Church (Universal) is that there are too many who profess Jesus Christ but do not have a personal relationship with Him. They may know about Him but sad to say they do not know Him and cannot be witnesses for Him!
 - Jesus asked Peter: “But who do **YOU** say that I am?” (Matt. 16:14 NKJV).
 - Thomas (Christ’s disciple) may have had his bad days but he openly confessed and acknowledged Jesus Christ (John 20:28)
 - We need to know Him personally and such is a possibility (1 John 1:1)

(b) Believers must be good salt!

- (1) White, small and broken into many grains but very useful and necessary.
- (2) Lives that are pure, humble and ready for the Master’s use.
- (3) One Scripture that immediately stands out is Psalm 24:3-4.
- (4) We need to be vessels of honor or vessels that are set apart; useful for honorable and noble purposes (see 2 Tim. 2, NB Vv. 19-21)

2 Tim. 2:19-21 Amplified Bible

“But the firm foundation of (laid by) God stands, sure and unshaken, bearing this seal (inscription): The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names [himself by] the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it. [Num. 16:5; Isa. 26:1.] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthen ware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use]. So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.”

(c) **Without salt human lives cannot be sustained!**

(1) What must the believer be in themselves?

- The believer must be seasoned.
 - Seasoned with the Word of God.
 - Seasoned with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - Seasoned with the salt of grace.
 - Seasoned with pure thoughts and affections.
 - Seasoned with Christlike compassion and care.
 - Seasoned with words of kindness and love.
- Seasoned!! Seasoned with the mercy and grace of God!!
See Col. 4:6

(2) What must the believer be to others?

- They must not only be good but do good works.
 - Peter was with Jesus during His earthly ministry and testified of Christ's "good works" (acts 10:38).
 - We are not saved by good works but "good works" are expected, see Eph. 2:8-10.
 - People do not really care how much you know, they want to know how much you care!!
- Your sincere lifestyle is an astounding witness to the glory of God.
 - It will indelibly be engrafted in people's mind.
 - Naturally, people will know as they experience your genuine love, knowing that you expect nothing in return; this might help to transform them of the need to taste and relish the gospel.

(d) The believer's life must be rich and meaningful by living a Christlike life.

(1) The believer must have salt in themselves.

(2) Note **Mark 9:50b**

- **KJV:** "Have salt in yourself ..."
- **Amplified Bible:** "Have salt within yourself
 - Have the loving attitude of the service Christ exemplifies
 - Abide according to the Word of God; throughout the main study (The Righteous Pursues Holiness) much emphasis has been placed on the importance of abiding in Christ (a favorite reference John 15:1-8)

3. **Encompass the World**

(a) The Church is not limited in its outreach.

- (1) As the people of God with a mission, we must not be laid up on a heap. We cannot afford to be in one place; note carefully what Christ said to the apostles: "In Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8b). The mission was not limited to Jerusalem.
- (2) There is a difference in ministry by the servants of God, as observed in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

- In the Old Testament, the Levites were dispersed in Israel.
- Jesus Christ specifically commanded us to go in “all the world.”

Matt. 24:14 KJV

“”And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come.”

- (3) As salt is spread over all the meat, even so believers must spread the gospel over the whole world.
- (b) We have no choice; believers must spread out all over the world.
- (1) But one thing must be known when believers scatter into the world: his salt is necessary and useful.
- (2) There is no salt other than the believer’s salt, nothing whatsoever can replace us who have genuinely had an encounter with God.
- There is only one True and Living God and Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to Him (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).
 - The gospel is solely about Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4) and we are His ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20; **we are “salt of the earth”** (Matt. 5:13a)
- (3) **The task is the believer’s and his alone!!**
- Spreading the “Good News” rest upon the believer and him alone.
 - See Rom. 10 NB Vv. 13-17.
- (c) The following two quotes are taken from the John Wesley’s Journal.
- (1) “At four in the afternoon, I submitted to be more vile, and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation, speaking from a little eminence in a ground adjoining to the city, to about three thousand people.” (Journal, April 2, 1739)
- “eminence”: *a piece of rising ground (elevation, height, rise)*
- (2) I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation.” (Journal, June 11, 1739)
- (d) The walls of unrighteousness can crumble and deliverance experienced for whosoever will!! We must surround the world, penetrate every nook and cranny, every city, every suburb, etc. just as Israel did under the power of God and bring down the walls of Jericho we can conquer the power of sin in the lives of people because the battle is the Lord’s (1 Sam. 17:47). Beloved let us have salt and encompass the world, to the glory of God!!

D. Caution Matt. 5:13b

Matt. 5:13b NKJV: “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.”

1. Background

- (a) Salt Producing Counties.

- (1) The six leading salt producing countries are Australia, Canada, China, Germany, India and the United States of America (information updated 2019 based on report for 2017)
 - (2) St. Barts, a Caribbean island.
 - My wife and I visited the county and saw the salt pits, which are no longer functioning.
 - We were enlightened about the good and bad sides of salt production when such was a very important means of employment (in St. Barts).
 - One outstanding factor I do bring to focus is that salt that was produced and mixed with any foreign body was useless.
- (b) **The danger of the disciple is that of becoming useless and destructive.**
- (1) Salt does not lose its saltiness and flavor.
 - (2) However, in the time of Christ the salt of Palestine was gathered in such a manner that dirt and other impurities were often mixed with it.
 - The salt was thus useless and good for nothing.
 - In fact, this type of salt actually destroyed the fertility of the soil; therefore it was not only useless but destructive.
 - You may want to read Matt. 25 and note verses 14-30; I will quote verse 30.
Matt.25:30 NKJV
 “And cast the **unprofitable** servant into utter darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
 - Think what it means for anyone to purchase salt that is mixed with dirt or any other foreign elements.
 - In the main study, “The Righteous Pursues Holiness,” mention was made of the “**mixed multitude**” or “**rabble**” that left Egypt.
 - See Ex. 12:38 note the disastrous effect of such mixture; for example see Num. 11:4.
 - Much emphasis has also been placed in the main study on the uttermost necessity for purity (James 1:27; etc.)
 - If salt is going to be effective its distinction and purity must be maintained.
 - See also 2 Cor. 6:14-18
- (c) **“Sincerity”**
Keep in mind how salt was produced in Palestine at the time of Christ or in some countries for example St. Barts (also spelt Barth). Remember under what condition salt is (was) determined to be useless (Matt. 5:13b), which brings out the importance of genuine quality.
- (1) **Under attack!** The word “sincerity” has been under attack just like all the fundamentals of Christianity and the main objective of this attack is to change the original meaning of these fundamentals to suit the attackers own pernicious ways of living.
 - (2) **Originally, “sincerity” meant “unmixed.”**

- This original usage carried the meaning of: pure, uncontaminated and sincere.
 - I had a professor in Bible College who loved and frequently used the terms: “no wax” “no mixture,” to define sincerity.
- (3) **“No wax” “No mixture” . . . brief historical background.**
- Pottery in the Roman world was profitable business.
 - The formed pottery was placed in an oven to bake.
 - When baked, it was examined for cracks.
 - The well-respected potter:
 - If any cracks were found the vessel would be discarded.
 - This means to start over again and would increase the production cost of the pottery.
 - The less reputable potter:
 - He would use wax to fill in the cracks, perhaps by melting wax in it.
 - Next he would paint over the imperfections and sell it as if it was pure.
 - These individuals could sell their pottery for cheaper prices, thus undercutting the sincere pottery makers.
 - Based on the dishonesty of the less reputable potters the honest potters were prompted to hang a sign over the entrance of their stores:

“Sincerus.”

 - **“Sincerus”** meaning: **“This store pottery has no wax.”**
 - The actual definition of the Latin word (*sincerus*) means to be pure and clean.
 - Whether the stories are true or not is debatable, but the idea of being **“without wax”** in our lives is valuable in the eyes of God!!
 - Sincerity!! Sincerity!! Is imperative and yet so grossly lacking!! The believer’s life must be lived in Christlike sincerity and truth. **“NO WAX!!”** (1 Cor. 5:8; 2 Cor. 1:12; 2 Cor. 2:17; Phil. 1:10; Titus 2:7; 1 John 3:18).
 - If you, who should season others, are unsavory, void of spiritual life, relish, and vigor, then your condition is sad (**yet there is hope in Jesus Christ if you will seek Him**).
 - Don’t be like Adam and Eve, who made vain excuses, finger pointing, etc., humbly take your condition to Jesus Christ!!
 - As with the Church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7), God has laid out the conditions for renewal: remember, repent, return or be removed.

2. Backslider

- (a) This is a wrong and derogatory word for some fellow Christians.
- (1) They believe that once you are saved you are always saved no matter what a person does after he professed Christ as Savior.
 - (2) They believe that the believer will persevere.

- Absolutely! We will persevere, but how and in what spiritual condition (this subject was discussed in the main study “The Righteous Pursues Holiness”).
 - We cannot persevere unless we are preserved, and we are preserved only **in Jesus Christ** (Jude 1; 2 Tim. 4:18; John 15:1-8; etc.)
- (b) In Matt. 5:13b we have a picture of the backslider.
- (1) This is a believer who has lost his flavor and saltiness.
- (2) **Three things to be noted about the backslide:**
- He becomes useless just as salt does.
 - He has no value. He may well be cast out and be trodden underfoot (John 15:6; 1 Cor. 9:27; etc.). [Unless he repents and seeks forgiveness which is available while there is time ... Psa.32:6; 69:13; Isa. 49:8; 55:6-7; 2 Cor.6:2].
 - In his backslidden state this person actually destroys the fertility of some struggling seeker because his inconsistent life is a stumbling block . . . they have no salt in themselves.
- 2 Peter 2:20 ESV**
- “For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.
- Once more, I must note: God will heal the penitent soul (Psa. 34:18; Jer. 3:22; Hos. 14:14; Joel 2:1; Micah 7:18; Luke 15:7

3. **BLAND!!**

- (a) This matter of being insipid was discussed in the main study (The Righteous Pursues Holiness) in chapter 2 lesson 2 when we discussed adapting to the evil environment, one example was the church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:13-22).
- (1) The word “bland” as relates to food, means tasteless, flavorless, insipid, etc.
- (2) This was the situation with the Laodicea church because it became integrated with the evil environment in which it served ... dirt got into the salt and it became bland!!
- (b) If the believer’s salt loses its flavor he will experience the judgment of God (unless he repent and be restored). If he remains in his flavorless/insipid situation:
- (1) He will be cast out:
- Matt. 5:13b NKJV**
- “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is good for nothing but to be thrown out and be trampled underfoot by men.”
- (2) He will be a cast away
- 1 Cor. 9:27 KJV**

“Bu I keep my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

(c) **Practical Lessons** (*A somewhat brief review for emphasis*)

(1) **The necessity to have salt in ourselves Mark 9:49-50**

- It would be beneficial to study verses 42-50.
 - Jesus warns about the danger which sends one to hell because of sin.
 - See also Matt. 18:7-9 as a cross reference (time wouldn't allow for details).
- Some highlights on Mark 9:50.
Jesus used salt to illustrate three qualities that should be found in all those who are His people.
 - **We should remember God's faithfulness**, just as salt, when used with a sacrifice, recalled God's covenant with His people (Lev. 2:13-16, **NB v. 13**).
 - **We should make a difference in the "flavor" of the world we live in**, just as salt changes meat or anything to which it is applied (Matt. 5:13)
 - **We should counteract the moral decay in society**, just as salt preserves food from decay; it keeps products from going bad so the believer keeps the society from decay and impedes moral corruption.
- Oh! Beloved, the Church's presence and witness in the world is of paramount importance and in urgent demand!! When we lose this desire to "salt" the earth with the love and message of God we become useless to Him!!

(2) **If salt loses its flavor, what is going to restore its flavor?**

- Once saltiness is gone, it is gone (remember, it loses its saltiness by containing foreign bodies, that which degrades its true value and use).
- It can no longer salt the earth and has no value (Matt. 5:13).

(3) **There is no other than Jesus Christ, who can salt and save a person from corruption and decay!! ONLY JESUS!!!**

- A person who profess to have salt **but remains** bland, tasteless and corruptible has no hope of ever being salted (*unless he turns to God in repentance*).
- **No one can salt him. He must let Jesus Christ salt him or else he will never be salted!**
- If he remains in that state of being without an intimate relationship with God, he is good for nothing, but to be cast out (Matt. 5:13).
 - God has made a way for man to be restored but proper use of the opportunity must be made before it's too late; Compare John 3:16-18 with Heb. 9:27.
 - **There is a Great Day Coming!!**

Third Stanza

There is a sad day coming, a sad day coming

There is a sad day coming by and by
 When the sinner shall hear his doom
 "Depart, I know ye not

Refrain

Are you ready for that day to come?
 Are you ready? Are you ready?
 Are you ready for the judgment day? For the judgment day?

(4) THE GOOD NEWS!!

- The gate is still ajar!! Come in!! (See Isa. 55, NB Vv. 6-7)
- Andrea Crouch states in one of his songs: "Jesus is the answer for the world today. Above Him there is no other."
- **John 14:6 NKJV**
 Jesus said to him, I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me."
- God will heal the backslider
Hosea 14:4 NKJV
 "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him."
See also Psa. 51:12; Jer. 3:22; 30:17; Hosea 14:4; Micah 7:19.
- Mercy there was great and grace was free;
 Pardon there was multiplied to me;
 There my burden soul found liberty,
 At Calvary.

THREE QUOTES IN CLOSING

1. You are the "Salt of the Earth" Barnes Notes

"Salt renders food pleasant, and preserves from putrefaction. So Christians, by their lives and instructions, are to keep the world from entire moral corruption. By bringing down the blessing of God in answer to their prayers, and their influence and example, they save the world from universal vice and crime."

2. THE CALL TO EVANGELISM

(a) "It is the great business of every Christian to save souls. People complain that they do not know how to take hold of this matter. Why, the reason is plain enough; they never studied it. They never take proper pains to qualify themselves for the work. If you do not make it a matter of study, how you may successfully act in building up the kingdom of Christ, you are acting a very wicked and absurd part as a Christian."
 (Charles Finney)

(b) “Radical obedience to Christ is not easy. . . . It’s not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risk losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And He is more than enough.” (David Platt)

You are encouraged to read Luke 14:25-35

Luke 14:34-35 Amplified Bible

“Salt is good [an excellent thing], but if salt has lost its strength and has become saltless (insipid, flat), how shall its saltiness be restored? It is fit neither for the land nor for manure heap; men throw it away. He, who has ears to hear, let him listen and consider and comprehend by hearing.”

THE CHURCH IS LIKE SALT, SALVATION EXPERIENCED BY CONTACT!!

Matt. 5:13 NKJV

“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.”

Mark 9:49-50 ESV

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately diving [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.”

Chapter 4 Lesson 1 Review Questions

1. In what way salt is distinctly different from that upon which it is applied?

2. Explain how a genuine believer differs from the world by (a) nature (b) purpose.

3. What factors characterize a church when it becomes “lukewarm”?

4. Match the statements on the left with the correct references on the right.

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	JUMBLED REFERENCES
Have no fellowship with the works of darkness		John 8:12
Therefore cast off the works of darkness		Matt. 5:14
... out of darkness into His marvelous light		Eph. 5:11
I am the Light of the world		Rom. 13:12
You are the light of the world		1 Peter 2:9

5. When Christ referred to the believers as light, in what way this is an enormous compliment?

6. Complete the following:

Just as the moon (a) _____ the light of the (b) _____ onto the (c) _____ side of the earth, so the (d) _____ is to (e) _____ the rays of the “Sun of Righteousness” (Mal. 4:2) on a world (f) _____ by sin.

7. What’s the most effective way Christians communicate the “Good News”?

8. Briefly explain what is meant to be (a) salt (b) light.

9. Complete the following:

(a) _____, living in (b) _____ and wickedness, were a (c) _____ heap ready to be (d) _____; Jesus sent forth His (e) _____ by their (f) _____ and doctrine to (g) _____ it with knowledge and grace.

10. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:

One of the many signs of the end times the _____ of righteousness to a lifestyle of iniquity.

- (a) divisions in the heavens
- (b) deviation from the way
- (c) dutiful servants enjoying slumber
- (d) doom of the anti-Christ.

11. Explain what is meant by: "God is never without a witness."

12. Wherein does the competency of the lives and power of the believer's lives?

13. In what way believers cleanse and preserve the earth?

14. Briefly explain the penetrating effects of salt and how it applies to the believer.

15. In what way the believer's life is far reaching and life transforming. Give references?

16. In Matt. 6:1-8, we saw Jesus addressing external display. List the three areas noted, along with their corresponding verses.

17. Complete the following:

“But let it be the (a) _____ adorning and (b) _____
of the hidden person of the (c) _____, with (d) _____
and (e) _____ charm of a gentle and (f) _____
spirit, which [is not (g) _____ or wrought up but] is very
(h) _____ in the sight of God.”

1 Peter 3:14 Amplified Bible

18. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:
How reassuring for us to live soberly, godly and righteous lives because what we do _____ ,
reaches far and wide.

19. When we spread God’s love and goodness to others by our Christlike life; the following occurs ...
(a) God is glorified _____
(b) Enriches life _____
(c) Furnish a pattern for imitation _____
(d) Tend to summon others to their task _____
(e) Demonstrate the reality of faith _____
Give references for each.

20. Salt is “irrepressible,” how is this fact applicable to the believer?

21. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.
“Believers are responsible to be witnesses solely in their immediate church community.”

22. Explain what is meant by the statement: “The church is the salt factory and the world is the market place for the salt.”

23. Why is it necessary for believers to be salt themselves?

24. Salt seasons: what are some things noted (in our lesson) that the believer should be seasoned with in order to give flavor to others?

25. Complete the following:

As salt as (a) _____ over all the (b) _____ even so
 (c) _____ must sp[read the (d) _____ over
 the (e) _____ (f) _____.

26. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.

“There is no salt other than the believer’s salt.”

27. Complete the following:

(A quote from John Wesley’s Journal ... quoted in our lesson)

“I look upon all the (a) _____ as my (b) _____;
 thus far I mean, that in (c) _____ part of it I am, I (d) _____
 it meet, right, and my (e) _____ duty to (f) _____
 unto all that are (g) _____ to hear, the glad tidings of
 (h) _____.” (Journal, June 11, 1739)

28. In what way is salt determined to be useless (as applicable in Matt. 5:13)?

29. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:

“If you, who should season others, are unsavory, void of spiritual life, relish, and vigor, the _____

(Yet, there is hope in Jesus Christ if you will seek Him)

- (a) your condition is sad
- (b) you should not worry
- (c) not a matter of concern
- (d) expect is , it's normal

30. Based on Matt. 5:13b, we have a picture of the backslider. (a) What three things are noted in this reference? (b) Give references showing God's willingness to restore the backslider.

31. In Mark 9:50, what three qualities noted in our lessons should all believers should possess?

32. If a believer as salt loses his saltiness, how can he be restored?
