



Making A Difference

In A Dying & Hopeless World

Pass The **Salt** & Turn On The **Light**

Matthew 5:13-16

Making A Difference

In A Dying & Hopeless World

Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

¹³ “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 lampstand, 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.

Making A Difference

In A Dying & Hopeless World

- We live in a **WICKED** & **DARK** world - (Gen 6:5; 2 Tim 3:1-5)
- The PEOPLE of GOD are to be a positive **INFLUENCE** & guiding **EXAMPLE** — (John 17:15-18; Rom. 2:17-24; Phili. 2:15,16)
- In order to be **EFFECTIVE**, we **MUST** be genuinely **HOLY** in **character, word, & deeds.** — (5:3-12; Jn 17:15-18; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Pet 1:13-17; 2:11,12)



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

Pass The

Turn On The

SALT & LIGHT

*We can be a positive influence in this
world ONLY if we are very different
from the world!*

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Mark 9:49-50 (NKJV)

⁴⁹ "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. ⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Luke 14:34-35 (NKJV)

³⁴ “Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?

³⁵ It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

- Flavoring foods
- Preserving fish
- Drain blood from meats
- Infants rubbed with salt -
- Treatment for tooth decay and tooth aches
- Ingredient in the sacred anointing oil
- Sacrifices— (Num. 18:19)
- Necessary for life



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Salt Seasons

- Job said, “Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?” (Job 6:6)
- Our words should be with salt, i.e. wholesome and palatable – (Col. 4:6)



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Salt Preserves

- There were not enough salty saints to save the antediluvian world – (Gen. 6:7-13)
- Abraham pleading with the Lord regarding Sodom - (Gen 18:20-32)
- Jerusalem “If you can find a man . . . I will pardon her” – (Jer. 5:1)



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Salt Heals

- Salt has antiseptic and healing properties.
- In Bible times when babies were born, babies were given a saline bath to hold down infection – (Ezekiel 16:4)
- We live in a sick world infected by sin – are we salty enough to help it?



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Salt Irritates

- Salt burns in a wound!
- The truth of God's Word, when rubbed into this diseased world, will sting - (Mat. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22; John 15:20; 2 Tim 3:12)
- Many prefer a non-irritating brand of the Gospel – (2 Tim. 4:3.4)



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Salt Penetrates

- In order for salt to season, preserve, heal or irritate – it must come into contact with that which it is intended to affect.
- We must get the salt to the source, where it can penetrate, activate, and change society – (John 17:13-18; 1 Thes 1:8)



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Salt Causes Thirst

- You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink - - - but you can give it salt.
- Consistent godly influence is very powerful - (1 Pet. 3:1; 1 Cor. 9:19-22)
- The sermon you preach is not nearly as effective as the sermon you live!



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Polluted Salt Is Useless

- “Salt seasons and preserves beef, NOT because it is like beef, but because it is very much unlike it.” - Chesterton
- Our positive influence is ONLY found in our holy distinctiveness – (Luke 14:34; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; James 4:4)



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Polluted Salt Is harmful

- Brings dishonor and and a reproach upon God and His people - (Rom 2:24; 1 Tim 5:14; 6:1)
- Inconsistency in the lives of those who profess to be followers of Christ has indeed caused many to be offended! - (Mat. 18:7; Titus 2:1-8)



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Polluted Salt Is Thrown Out

- It is to be discarded – trampled under the feet of men – (Luke 14:35; Mat 7:23; 25:41)
- The REAL possibility of one losing their salvation & being lost - (John 15:1-10; Rom. 11:17-22; Heb. 10:24-39)




Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

A City On A Hill

- Those with the character of Christ and follow Him will radiate His light – (John 8:12; Prov 4:18; Eph 5:8-10)
- Our Christianity should be evident. - Jesus expects His followers to be seen by the world - (e.g., Jn 13:35; 17:21; 1 Peter 3:15)




Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)
¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Don't Hide Your Light

- Collectively we need to be busy preaching and teaching the gospel – (*pulpit - radio – internet – supporting preachers around the world*) — (Mat. 28:19,20; Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 8:4; 1 The 1:8)
- The greatest impact will be accomplished on the individual level!




Matthew 5:15 (NKJV)
15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Don't Hide Your Light

- Must be actively walking in the light - (1 John 1:5,6)
- You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light – (Eph 5:8-19; 1 Pet 2:9)
- Our light is to be seen by men in the world – (Phili 2:15, 16)
- Not the same as those Jesus condemned – (Mat 6:2, 16-18)



Matthew 5:15 (NKJV)
15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Morality That Glorifies God

- We are to be morally pure – (Eph 5:3; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21)
- We cannot be a positive influence in a morally depraved society while engaging in, approving of, or compromising with worldliness — (*Fornication, Homosexuality, MDR, Abortion, Drunkenness, Injustice, ...*)

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Morality That Glorifies God

EPHESIANS 5:3-7 (NKJV)

³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Morality That Glorifies God

EPHESIANS 5:8-13 (NKJV)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Morality That Glorifies God

1 PETER 4:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³ For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Speech That Glorifies God

- Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, . . . – (Eph 5:4)
- Sound speech that cannot be condemned, . . . – (Titus 2:8)
- “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.” –(Eph 4:15)

*Pure – Truthful
Loving – Helpful -
Instructive - Uplifting*

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Dress That Glorifies God

- Modest clothing Professing godliness – (1 Tim 2:9,10)
 - Not revealing -
 - Not extravagant -
 - Not caught up in worldly fashions –
 - Not false humility -

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Self-Control Glorifying God

- There should be no fleshly appetite over which our spiritual mind does not rule – (1 Cor. 6:12; 1 Cor 9:27)
- Moderation in all things allowed - (Rom. 14:15-23; 1 Cor. 10:23)
- Abstinence from all things forbidden - (1 Cor. 6:19; Col. 3:5)

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

God Honoring Attitude

- The Beatitudes, [humility, hate sin, meekness, hunger for God, merciful, pure, peacemakers, faithful] - (Mat 5:3-12)
- A supreme Love for God and a sincere love for our fellowman – (Mark 12:29-31; 1 Cor. 13:3-8)
- Optimistic – (Phili 4:8,12,13)

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

God Honoring Attitude

- Doubting? or TRUSTING?
- Hateful? or LOVING?
- Negative? or HOPEFUL?
- Unhappy? or JOYFUL?

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so
shine before men,
that they may see
your good works and
glorify your Father in
heaven.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

God Honoring Religion

- Worship according to the NT pattern – (John 4:24; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:26; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1,2)
- Attendance / reverence– (Heb 10:25; 12:28)

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

God Honoring Religion

- Caring for one another – (1 John 3:17)
- Acts of kindness — (James 1:27)
- Our public practice, - (Rom. 1:16; Col. 3:16) - *(praying in public? Reading the Bible? Talking about spiritual things with others, godly living)*

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Glorify Your Father

- In Our Morality!
- In Our Language!
- In Our Clothing!
- In Our Behavior!
- In Our Attitude!
- In Our Religion!



Making A Difference

In A Dying & Hopeless World

- This is not a time to be passive in our faithfulness to the Lord!

- For our **Nations** sake –
- For our **communities** sake
- For our **own** sake
- For our **children's** sake . . .
- For our **brethren's** sake –
- Mostly – For the **Lord's** sake!

What Kind
of Influence Are
We Providing For
Those Around
Us?



Making A Difference

In A Dying & Hopeless World

Pass The

Turn On The

SALT & LIGHT

Are You A Child of God?

*If So - Are You Providing The Positive
Influence You Should?*

Are You Glorifying God?

Making A Difference *In A Dying & Hopeless World*

Charts by Don McClain / Preached December 31, 2017 PM

West 65th Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Prepared using Keynote – More PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.com>

Pass The **Salt** & Turn On The **Light**
Matthew 5:13-16

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. ¹⁷ Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-15 (NKJV)

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-15 (NKJV)

¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So then death is working in us, but life in you. ¹³ And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "*I believed and therefore I spoke*," we also believe and therefore speak,

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. ¹⁵ For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.