

- 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, & DEED. (5:3-12; Jn 17:15-18; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Pet 1:13-17; 2:11,12)





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

You ARE The Salt of The Earth

- •Necessary for life
- Preservative for fish / meats
- Antiseptic and healing properties / tooth decay and tooth aches
- Ingredient in the sacred anointing oil and used in sacrifices (Num. 18:19)



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)



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)



You ARE The Salt of The Earth

Salt Heals

- Salt has antiseptic and healing properties.
- When babies were born, they 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?



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)



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)



You ARE The Salt of The Earth

Salt Causes Thirst

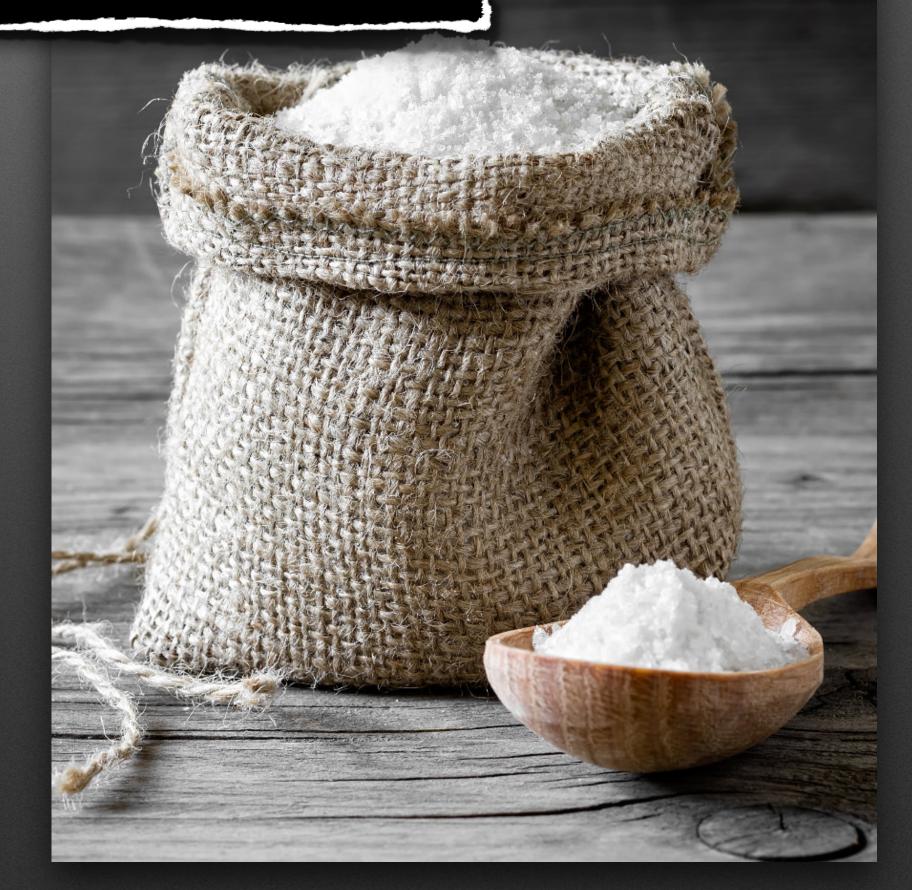
- You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink - - - but you can give it salt.
- Consistent godly influence is very powerful (1 Pet. 3:1; 1 Cor. 9:19-22)
- The sermon you preach is not nearly as effective as the sermon you live!



You ARE The Salt of The Earth

Polluted Salt Is Useless

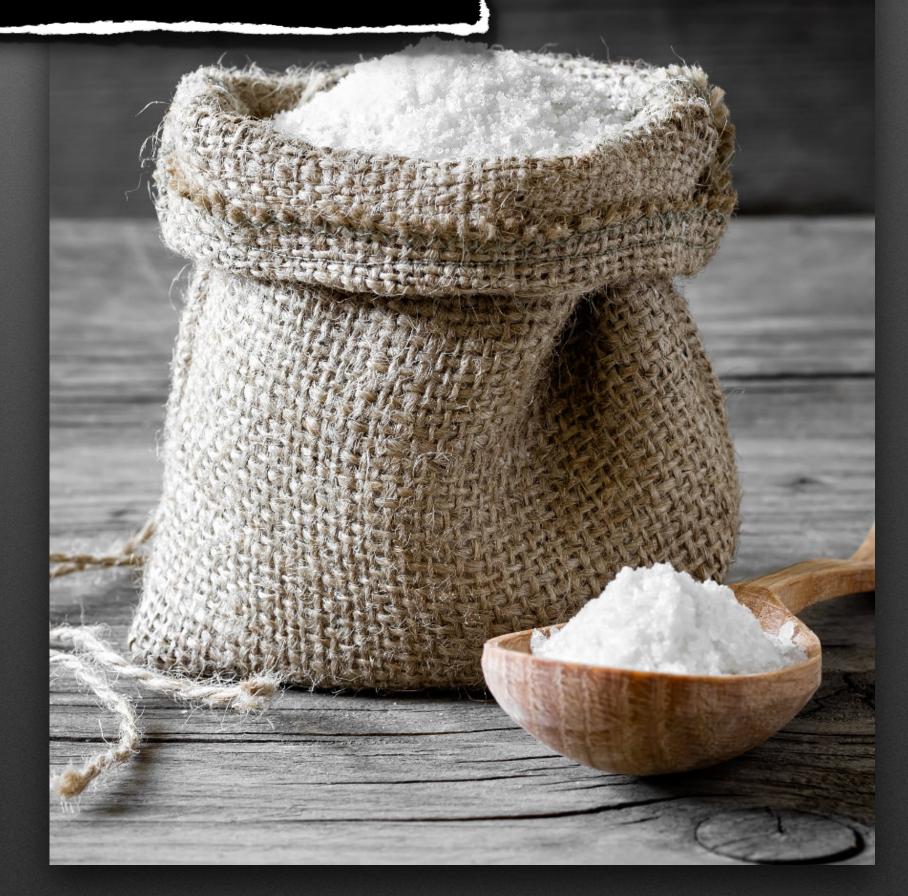
- "Salt seasons and preserves beef, NOT because it is like beef, but because it is very much unlike it." -Chesterton
- Our positive influence is ONLY found in our holy distinctiveness (Luke 14:34; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; James 4:4)



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)



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)



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 visible to 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.

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Don't Hide Your Light

- Collectively we are to proclaim the gospel every way we can (Mt. 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.

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Don't Hide Your Light

- Walking in the light (1 John 1:5,6)
- Walk as children of light (Eph 5:8-19;1 Peter 2:9)
- Our light is to be seen by others (Phili 2:15, 16), [Not the same as those Jesus condemned (Mat 6:2, 16-18)]

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- We are to be morally pure (Eph 5:3-13;
 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21; 1 Pet. 4:1-4)
- We cannot be a positive influence in a morally depraved society while engaging in, approving of, or compromising with worldliness, (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1) (Fornication, homosexuality, MDR, abortion, drunkenness, injustice, ...)

Pure – Truthful Loving – Helpful -Instructive - Uplifting

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify 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

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- Modest clothing Professing godliness (1 Tim 2:9,10)
- 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)

Pure – Truthful Loving – Helpful -Instructive - Uplifting

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- 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 / Hopeful (Phili 4:8,12,13)

Pure – Truthful Loving – Helpful -Instructive - Uplifting

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- 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)

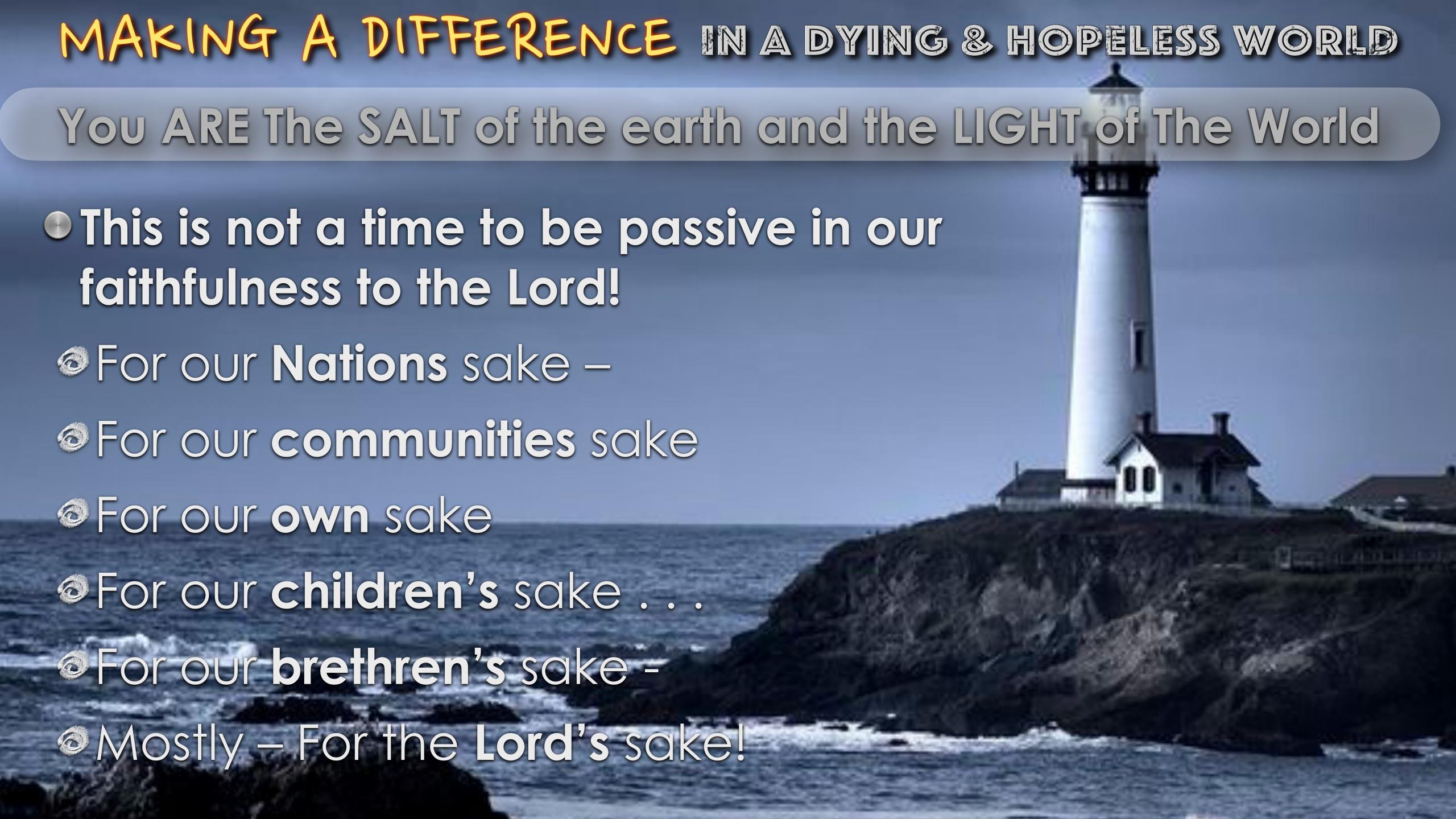
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You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- 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)

Pure – Truthful Loving – Helpful -Instructive - Uplifting



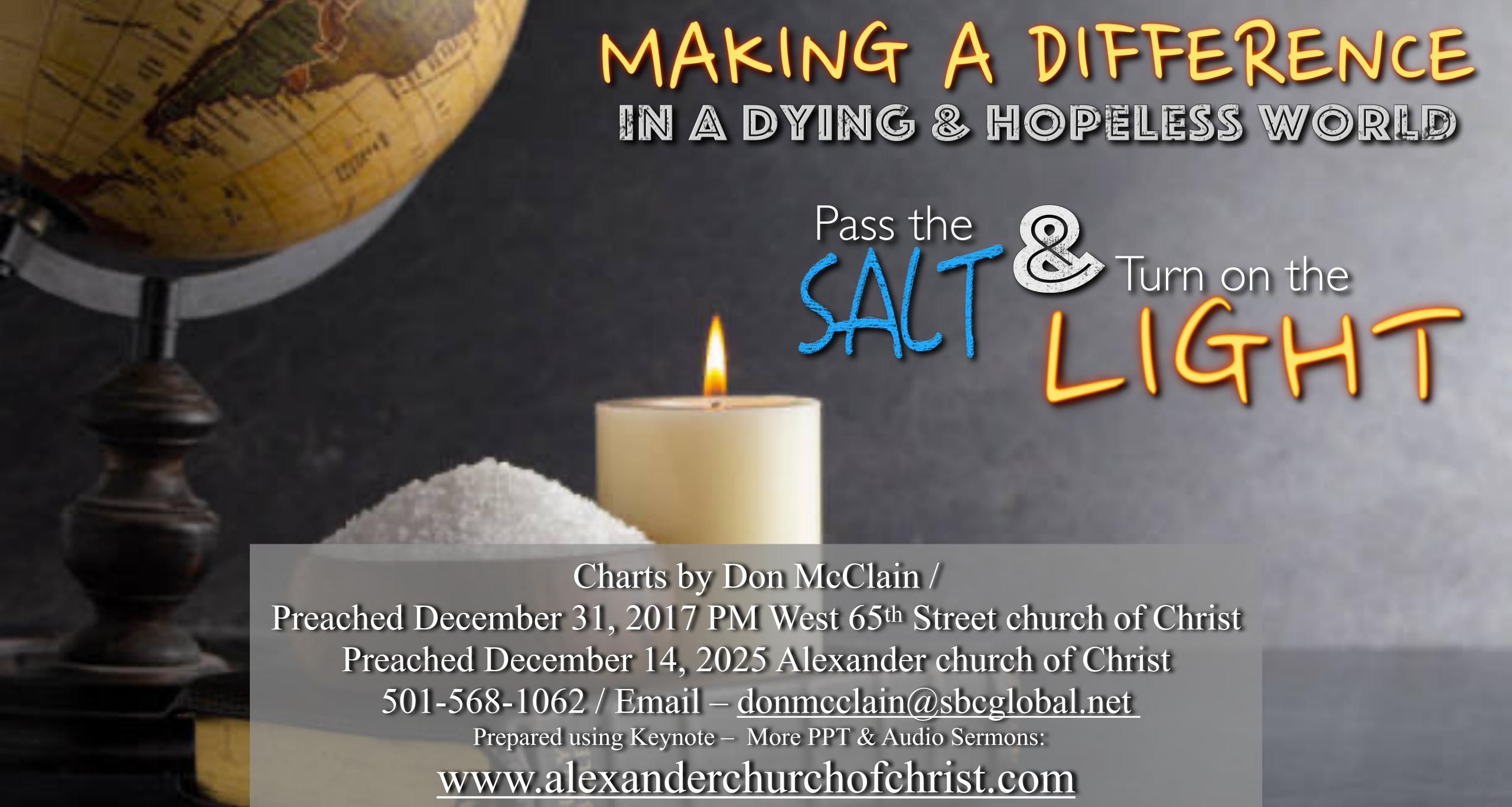




Are You A Child of God?

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

Are You Glorifying God?



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,

Philippians 2:12–18 (NKJV)

among whom you shine as lights in the world, 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.

Matthew 5:13-16