

# Influencing The Culture

You are the SALT of the Earth... You are the LIGHT of the World...  
*Matthew 5:13-16*



Influencing The Culture (eBook)  
Salt of the Earth ... Light of the World  
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## ***Salt of the Earth I (The Savor of God)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Matthew 5:13–16 (AV)<sup>13</sup> Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. <sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

### ***Introduction***

Our previous series, “Engaging the Culture”, was about our call and responsibility to the culture, community, social customs, groups, and people.

Now, I want to move into how we engage this culture, which is through Influence.

Influence:

- The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something
- The power to shape policy or ensure favorable treatment from someone, especially through status, contacts, or wealth
- A person or thing with the capacity or power to have an effect on someone or something

One thing that I’ve learned in life is that you can’t change people, but you can influence the to change themselves.

Our lesson text refers to a duality of roles of the Christians to influence this world: A Light that is viewable all over the world, and Salt that is spread all over the world.

Today we want to look at our calling to Influence the World, our Culture as Salt!

In our lesson text, Jesus declares, “Ye Are The Salt of the Earth”

Salt is a necessity of life, a mineral that is used by many cultures as a seasoning, a preservative, a disinfectant, a component of ceremonial offerings.

Salt signifies permanence, loyalty, durability, fidelity, usefulness, value, and purification.

Salt, when used, loses itself. That is, once you use it in food, you don’t see it. It is at that point that it influences the taste of the food.

Too many Christians look the part of salt, but if we are actually influencing the world, we would lose ourselves so that the world could taste the God in us.

On May 26, 1972, in Moscow; for the first time during the Cold War, the United States and Soviet Union agreed to limit the number of nuclear missiles in their arsenals. This was known as the Strategic, Arms, Limitation, Talks / Treaty

God has called us to be the S.A.L.T. of the Earth; He's Strategically Armed us to Limit the impact of this Taste of this World by our Influence as Salt.

Salt produces influence as a Seasoning, a Preservative, a Disinfectant, and an Offerings.

Our message today will look at Salt as Seasoning

Naturally when Salt is used as Seasoning, it brings Balance to too much sweetness, Suppression to Bitterness, and an Enhancement to Flavor

Colossians 4:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Matthew 5:13 (The Message) <sup>13</sup> "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.

As the Salt of the Earth, our Seasoning brings Balance, Suppression, and Enhancement to Reveal of the Taste or Savor of Godliness to the World.

### ***Balancing Savor of God***

Matthew 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?**

One of the first things that Salt does is it brings balance to flavor

The world that we were born into, the culture that we live in is out of balance with wickedness and evil, and laden with sin and lusts.

Ephesians 2:<sup>2</sup> Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Evil, wickedness, sin, and lust has the world, our culture on tilt, out of balance.

Without God's Truth, people are left to their own devices, a reprobate mind.

Romans 1:28–31 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; <sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, <sup>30</sup> Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

As Salt of the Earth, our Influence brings the Balancing Savor of God

The bible says choose you this day who you will serve; but they don't know who and what to serve, they don't know good from evil, death from life.

Romans 10: <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Proverbs 18:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Psalm 34: <sup>8</sup> O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

Our Salt brings Balance to the Evil, so the World can Taste God's Goodness

### ***Suppressing Savor of God***

Matthew 5: <sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?**

Another thing that Salt does is it Suppresses Bitterness

Not only is the world out of balance, its harshness and cruelty produce bitterness

Psalm 69:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: ...

The constant onslaught of trouble, afflictions, betrayal, injustice, and disappointment, has a world full of produced a world full of angry, bitter people.

As Salt of the Each, our Influence brings Suppressing Savor of God

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

It's not that the hatred goes away, but our Salt bring the Love of God that conquerors a multitude of evil

The world is still filled with sadness and unhappiness, but our Salt brings a Joy of the Lord that overcomes unhappiness and depression.

The persistent and consistent trouble brings anxiety and worry, but our Salt brings Peace that passes all understanding.

Our Salt brings Suppression of Bitterness, so the World can Taste God's Fruit

### ***Revealing Savor of God***

Matthew 5: <sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?**

As Salt of the Earth, We Influence the World by

- Balancing the Taste of Evil with the Taste of God's Goodness
- Suppressing the Taste of Bitterness with the Taste of God's Fruit

- Enhancing the Taste of Godliness that's Hidden within Us

The World keeps the things of God hidden within us

Purpose is hidden, Calling is hidden, Ministry is Hidden, Destiny is Hidden

But Salt enhances and reveals that which is hidden.

The world will have you thinking that there is no hope, but the Salt of God Reveals God's plans!

Jeremiah 29:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

The world will have us thinking we are useless and irrelevant, but the Salt of God Reveal God's Purpose

Romans 8:28 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

The Salt Reveals God's Anointing

Jeremiah 1: <sup>5</sup> Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

The Salt Reveals God's Power

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

## ***Salt of the Earth II (The Godly Preservative)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Matthew 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men...**

1 Corinthians 7:12–14 (AV)<sup>12</sup> But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. <sup>13</sup> And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

John 17:14–17 (AV)<sup>14</sup> **I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

1 Timothy 4:1–5 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; <sup>3</sup> Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: <sup>5</sup> For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

### ***Introduction***

As we move from Engaging the Culture, to Influencing the Culture, we move from what we're called to do to how we're called to do it.

**Influence:** The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something

It is the understanding that we can't change people, but we can influence them to change themselves.

The duality of our Christian roles to influence this world is through being a Light that can be seen all over the world, and Salt that is to be spread all over the world.

Our Influencing Power as Salt of the Earth operates Spiritually as Salt does Naturally

It is a seasoning, a preservative, a disinfectant, and a ceremonial offerings.

Last week we look at Salt as a Seasoning:

- It Balances the Evil of this World with God's Goodness
- It Overcomes the Bitterness of this World with God's Fruit
- It Enhances the Flavor of God by Revealing the Hidden things of God
- We allow the World who does not know God to taste of His Godliness.

Today we want to look at Salt as a Preservative

**Salt** is a water absorbent and hence removes water from any food. In absence of water, bacteria can't grow and multiply, and so it acts as a **preservative**.

By pulling or absorbing the water, it dries the food, making the environment too dry to support growth of harmful mold and bacteria.

The environment of this world is filled with water (Lusts of Flesh, Lusts of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life) that is spiritually conducive to growing harmful mold and bacteria (Sin).

We are the Salt of the Earth, a Preservative that dries up the environment so that Sin can grow.

As Christians, our Salt is Sanctification that we see in our lesson text.

The word "sanctification" is used to indicate "separation to God". To be "sanctified" is set apart in a separate category for a particular use.

In the Spiritual since, when we are become sanctified, we become "Holy" signifying separated and dedicated for God's use, and thus separated from sin.

We become consecrated to God, or sacred; which is a definition for Holiness.

In our three lesson texts, we see our Salt used as a Preservative to Sanctify:

What we see is that Sanctification has the power to not just sanctify yourself; but to sanctify the people, environment, and things connected to you.

Sanctify with Purpose, Sanctify with Protection, and to Sanctify with Power.

### ***Sanctifying Them With Purpose (Presence)***

1 Corinthians 7:14<sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

The environment of this world destroys purpose.

Mark 4:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

The world is filled with cares and lusts, and without salt, these cares and lusts grow out of control literally choking out God's purpose for our lives.

Ultimately it causes people to feel purposeless, useless, despondent, empty, aimless, meaningless, going through life dark, without form or void.

Matthew 16:26 (AV)<sup>26</sup> **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

Our Salt Dries up the Cares and Lusts of this World with Divine Purpose

1 Corinthians 7:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband:...

Because we are the Salt, our Sanctification dries up the cares and lusts of the world to reveal purpose.

Romans 8:28 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Matthew 18:20 (AV)<sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Our Salt Sanctifies with Purpose by Drying up the Cares and Lusts of this World

### ***Sanctifying Them With Protection (Keeper)***

John 17: <sup>15</sup> I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil... <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

The next thing the environment of this world does is takes away our protection.

2 Timothy 1:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Without salt, our protection breaks down; our fears runs rampant without control.

We get hurt in a relationship and fears grows; we lose our job and fear grows; get sick and fear grows; bankruptcy and fear grows; life doesn't work out, fear grows.

Our Salt Dries up the Fears of the World with Divine Protection

John 17: <sup>15</sup> I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

A lot of people want to avoid their fears, but God keeps us through fears.

Psalm 34:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Because we are the Salt, our Sanctification dries up the Spirit of Fear with the Word of God

John 17: <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. We overcome the fears of what we see because we walk by Faith and not by Sight!

Psalm 27:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

The Word is my Protection, my Shield, my Shelter, my Fortress.

Psalm 18:2 (AV)<sup>2</sup> The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

Our Salt Sanctifies with Protection by Drying up the Fears of this World

## **Sanctifying Them With Power (Prayer)**

1 Timothy 4:1–5 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;... <sup>5</sup> For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

We are the Salt of the Earth, a Preservative for the Things of God

- Our Salt Dries up the Cares and Lusts of this World to Sanctify it with Purpose
- Our Salt Dries up the Fears of this World to Sanctify it with Protection
- Finally, Our Salt Dries up the Weakness of this World to Sanctify it with Power

The environment of this world is designed to make us weak.

Constant trouble makes us weak, constant stress makes us weak, constant worry makes us weak, constant attacks make us weak, constant afflictions make us weak.

We become weak in strength, weak in our faith, weak in our trust, weak in soul.

But our Salt dries up the Weaknesses of this World with Divine Power

1 Timothy 4: <sup>5</sup> For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

It is through prayer that we are endowed with God's Power

Jude 24 (AV)<sup>24</sup> Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

James 5:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Luke 10:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

## ***Salt of the Earth III (Purifying Virtues of Godliness)***

### ***Lesson Text:***

Matthew 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men...**

Mark 9:47–50 (AV)<sup>47</sup> **And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: <sup>48</sup> Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. <sup>49</sup> For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.**

### ***Introduction***

In this series on Influencing the Culture, our objective is to understand the power we've been giving to influence this world, our culture.

Although we can't change people, we can influence their character, development, and behavior based on the power God has given us.

The duality of our Christian role is that as the light of the world, they can see God, and as the Salt of the Earth, they can taste God.

Our Spiritual Salt operates just a Natural Salt

It is a seasoning, a preservative, a disinfectant, and a ceremonial offering.

Salt of the Earth I: The Savor of God; Balancing, Suppressing Enhancing

Salt of the Earth II; The Godly Preservative

- Sanctifying Them With Purpose (Salt dries up Cares/Lusts of the World)
- Sanctifying Them With Protection (Salt dries up the Fears of the World)
- Sanctifying Them With Power (Salt dries up the weakness of the World)

Today we want to look at Salt as a Disinfectant of Purifier

Disinfectant is a Antiseptic, Sanitizer, Sterilizer, Decontaminator, and a Purifier

It simply means to remove contaminants.

Salt can be used in Water Purification: by adding a small amount of salt to turbid or dirty water causes the suspended dirt particles to flocculate (form into small clumps) and sink to the bottom, leaving clean water that can be decanted or strained from the dirt.

Salt can be use Detoxification: By drinking a beneficial mixture of sea salt dissolved in water, a person is able to push waste through the body, release toxins out of the body,

and improve digestion.

Salt can be used in the Healing Process: Many of us remember our mom telling us to gargle with warm salt water to ease the pain a pulled tooth or mouth ulcers.

Salt can be used as a Neutralizing Agent: When the body is too acidic, it produces an environment where life threatening diseases can take hold.

There are many advantages, assets, qualities, and benefits of Salt. Today we want to look at three of these Virtues as a Spiritual Purifier:

1. The Cleansing Virtue of God
2. The Healing Virtue of God
3. The Neutralizing Virtue of God

### ***Cleansing Virtue of God (Detoxify)***

Mark 9: <sup>47</sup> **And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:**

Godliness Purifies us through the process of Cleansings us.

Salt cleanses two ways: Detoxification (Cleansing the body of toxins and waste) and Flocculate (Cleansing water by clumping the dirt to fall to the bottom)

Likewise, Godliness Purifies through cleansing in two ways; Spiritually Detoxing the Church with the Word, and Spiritually Cleansing the World with the Church.

Both the Church and the World is Filthy and need to be Cleansed

Isaiah 64:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

1 John 5:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

In our lesson text, Jesus says if your eye was so filthy that it would keep you from entering the Kingdom, then pluck it out!

The Cleansing Virtue of God Cleanses both the Church and the World

Spiritual Detox: God cleanses the Church through the Word

Ephesians 5:25–27 (AV)<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup> That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The Word of God spiritually detoxifies, cleansing us from sins of this world

John 15:3 (AV)<sup>3</sup> **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

Psalm 119: <sup>11</sup> Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 51: <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Spiritual Cleanse: God cleanses the World through the Church

God spiritually detoxifies the church is so we can cleans the World

Matthew 28:19–20 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

The Purifying Virtue of Godliness Cleanses Us

### ***Healing Virtue of God***

Mark 9: <sup>49</sup> For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

Godliness also Purifies us through the process of Healing us.

Salt gives us the process of osmosis that promotes healing by forcing liquids out of the body that are contaminated with bacteria.

Salt also reduces pain through the dehydration of damaged cells, reducing swelling and thus is an anti-inflammatory for joint pain, arthritis, migraines.

Our world is filled with people, both in and out of the church that are sick and wounded.

Luke 4:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

People are spiritually poor, broken hearted, held in spiritual and emotional captivity, blinded by the conditions of this world, and bruised and oppressed.

The Healing Virtue of God Heals

Spiritual Osmoses: God heals us of our Wounds from Sin

Isaiah 53: <sup>5</sup> But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Because of the Sacrifice of Jesus, are wounds from Sin are Healed

Spiritual Anti-Inflammatory: God heals us of our Conditions

James 5:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Because of our Confession and Prayer, are Conditions are Healed

The Purifying Virtue of Godliness Heals Us

### ***Neutralizing Virtue of God***

Mark 9: <sup>50</sup> Salt *is* good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

The Purifying Virtues of Godliness...

1. Cleanses Us through the Word and the Church
2. Heals Us from our Wounds and Conditions
3. And Finally, it Neutralizes Us by Nullifying our Consequences

The Consequences of this World leads to Destruction

1 Peter 5:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ...**

Romans 6:23 (AV)<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death; ...

We live in a world filled with sin, corrupted by the lusts of the flesh, destined to destroy us with the consequences of death; and spiritual acid that is killing us.

James 1:<sup>14</sup> But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The Neutralizing Virtue of God Nullifies the Consequences of Sin

Just as Salt nullifies the acidic properties in our body that can kill us, Godliness nullifies the acidic properties of sin that want to destroy us.

Spiritual “Pepto Bismol, Pesid AC, Zantac, Nexium”

We must get to the **B-Clause of our Life** by Allowing God to Neutralize and Nullify the Consequences of this World. God has a **B-Clause for our Life!**

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:**

**B-Clause:** **I am come that they might have life, ... might have *it* more abundantly.**

Romans 6:23 (AV)<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death;

**B-Clause:** but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 34:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous:

**B-Clause:** but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psalm 30:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night,

**B-Clause:** but joy *cometh* in the morning.

## ***Salt of the Earth IV (A Sacrificial Offering)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Leviticus 2:11–13 (AV)<sup>11</sup> No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire. <sup>12</sup> As for the oblation of the firstfruits, ye shall offer them unto the LORD: but they shall not be burnt on the altar for a sweet savour. <sup>13</sup> And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.

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

Hebrews 13:15–16 (AV)<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Matthew 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?**

### ***Introduction***

As Salt, Jesus is teaching us that although we can't change people, we can influence them to want to change themselves. To date we've looked at Salt of the Earth as:

- Seasoning: The Savor of God: Balancing, Suppressing Enhancing
- Preservative: The Godly Preservative: Purpose, Protection, Power
- Disinfectant: The Purifying Virtues of Godliness)
  - Cleansing Virtue of God (The Church with Word; The World with Church)
  - Healing Virtue of God (Heals our Wounds; Heals us of our Conditions)
  - Neutralizing Virtue of God (Nullifying the Consequences of Sin)

Now we want to look at the Influence of Salt as a Ceremonial or Sacrificial Offering.

Our first lesson text gives us the requirements of the Hebrew Sacrifice

Leviticus 2: <sup>11</sup> No meat offering (***Thanksgiving to God***), which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn ***no leaven, nor any honey***, ...

When I go to Golden Chorale, one of the things I like to get is their sweet rolls. What makes them good and sweet is yeast (leaven) that causes it to rise, and a sweetener (honey) that gives it a good taste.

Now in the next verse God says, he wasn't his offering as a Sweet Savor, but not with

Leaven of Honey.

Throughout Scripture, leaven has always represented a principle of evil, and here honey represents a natural or worldly sweetener.

As Christians, our offering to God should not be Leaven which corrupts through fermentation, nor Honey which distorts with artificial taste; but with Salt!

To Influence the World, our offering must be Salted with a Sacrifice of our Body (A how we live); a Sacrifice of our Mind (how we think), and a Sacrifice of our Praise (how we rejoice).

### ***A Living Sacrifice (Holy Living)***

Leviticus 2:<sup>11</sup> No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, ***nor any honey***, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.

Don't offer God a Worldly (Carnal) Offering

When it comes to our offering to God, it shouldn't be sweetened with Honey

Honey represents natural sweetness, and God didn't want his offerings sweeten with anything from the world.

1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

It may taste good to you, but it is not good for you. It ultimately leads to death.

James 1:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

God wants an Offering Salted with a Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

A Living Sacrifice is when we choose to be sweeten not with the things and cares of this world, but with the Salt of Holy Living

Leviticus 11:44 (AV)<sup>44</sup> For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

God doesn't want us seasoned with the Honey of this world, but with the Salt of Holy Living

A Transforming Sacrifice (Spiritual Thinking)

Leviticus 2:<sup>11</sup> No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ***ye shall burn no leaven***, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.

Don't offer God a Corrupted (Polluted) Offering

Our offering to God must also not be corrupted or contaminated with Leaven  
Leaven or yeast causes the dough to become fermented and rise, to be modified and transformed.

Throughout Scripture, leaven has always represented a principle of evil; and was to be excluded from any sacrifice to God. Why?

The first clause of Romans 12:2 says “And be not conformed to this World”!

As a Christian, as Salt of the Earth, to Conform to the world is to allow the leaven of wickedness and evil to ferment, rise, and change the Church into the World.

Galatians 5:7–9 (AV)<sup>7</sup> Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?...<sup>9</sup> A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

1 Corinthians 5:1–6 (AV)<sup>1</sup> It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you,...<sup>6</sup> Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

**God wants an Offering Salted with a Transforming Sacrifice**

Romans 12:<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

A Transforming Sacrifice is when we choose to transform our minds with the mind of God, the word of God.

Philippians 2:5–7 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:<sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Colossians 3:<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.<sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

### ***A Pleasing Sacrifice (Thankful Praise)***

Hebrews 13:15–16 (AV)<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.<sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

As Salt of the Earth, our Offering to God Must be ...

1. A Living Sacrifice Salted with Holy Living
2. A Transforming Sacrifice Salted with Spiritual Thinking
3. Finally, A Pleasing Sacrifice Salted with Thankful Praise

Don't offer God an Ungrateful Offering

Too many Christians, who are called to be the Salt of the Earth, are ungrateful.

They complain about their troubles (We are troubled on every side...)

They complain about their afflictions (Many are the afflictions of the righteous...)

They complain about their enemies (They that hate me are more than the hairs...)

But when you are busy complaining to God, you are not praising God.

God wants an Offering Salted with a Pleasing Praise

Hebrews 13:15–16 (AV)<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

God is not Pleased with a Distasteful Offering, but a Holy Offering

God is not Pleased with a Polluted Offering, but a Transformed Offering

God is not Pleased with an Ungrateful Offering, but a Thanksgiving Offering

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Psalm 34:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. <sup>2</sup> My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad. <sup>3</sup> O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Psalm 118:1–4 (AV)<sup>1</sup> O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: because his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>2</sup> Let Israel now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>4</sup> Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever.

## ***Light of the World I (The Darker It Gets, The Brighter We Shine)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Matthew 5:13–16 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.** <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.** <sup>15</sup> **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.** <sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

John 1:4–13 (AV)<sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup> *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came unto his own, and his own received him not. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Matt 5:<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?**

As Salt, The World gets a taste of Godliness because we are

- Seasoning: The Savor of God: Balancing, Suppressing Enhancing
- Preservative: The Godly Preservative: Purpose, Protection, Power
- Disinfectant: The Purifying Virtues of Godliness
- Offering: A Sacrificial Offering:
  - A Living Sacrifice (Salted With Holy Living, Not Worldly Honey)
  - A Transforming Sacrifice (Salted With Transformation, Not Worldly Leaven)
  - A Pleasing Sacrifice (Salted with Thankful Praise, Not Discontent)

Our main lesson text speaks however, of the duality of our Christian roles to influence this world; not only are we Salt that is to be spread all over the world, but we are also Light that can be seen all over the world

John 1:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There is a double meaning here:

1. Light came, and as hard as it tried, darkness could not overcome it. Satan has been trying for years.
2. Light came, and the people in darkness didn't understand it. They must

experience the light before they can comprehend it.

John 3:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

The inability of Darkness to Comprehend Light means that the Darkness cannot Perceive, Overcome, Extinguish, Overtake, Apprehend, or Overpower the Light.

Have you ever noticed that evil and wickedness gets darker and darker over time?

People Get Darker: Those who study crime and violence show how truly evil people started out early in life stealing at home, peeping toms, hurting animals.

Relationships Get Darker: As children when we fight, we makeup 1 hour later, but with adults, we hold grudges for decades and lifetimes.

The World Gets Darker: The wickedness of this world just from 2 or 3 generations ago within my lifetime has grown exponentially (Drugs, Murder, Immorality, ...)

But there is always an answer to this darkness, and we are the key to it!

**Illustration of Darkness & Light (As Lights get darker, the Lantern gets Brighter)**

Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

## **Overpowering The Flesh**

John 1: <sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (**Overpower**)

John 1: <sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> **Which were born**, not of blood, **nor of the will of the flesh**, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Why does our Human Flesh get Darker and Darker?

It starts with our human nature and nurture.

Psalms 51:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Jeremiah 17:<sup>9</sup> The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Romans 7:18–21 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

When left to our own devices, the flesh (human spirit, it Id) turns the divine purpose of God's creation into wickedness and a reprobate mind!

Romans 1:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened**.

Romans 1:28–29 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave

them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; <sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,...

The Darker Our Flesh Gets, The Brighter We Shine by Overpowering it with the Spirit!

Romans 7:24–25 (AV)<sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Galatians 5: <sup>16</sup> *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

We overpower Hate with Love, Depression with Joy, Trouble with Peace, Impatience with Longsuffering; Harshness with Gentleness; Evil with Goodness, Disloyalty with Faith, Arrogance with Meekness, Worry with Temperance!

We Shine our Light when we Overpower the Flesh with the Spirit of God!

### ***Overcoming The People***

John 1: <sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (*Overcome*)

John 1: <sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> *Which were born*, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, *nor of the will of man*, but of God.

Why do our People (Relationships) get Darker and Darker?

First, it's because as we get older, the number of relationships and people grow

Psalms 69:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: ...

Second, it's because as we get older, we become less forgiving and trusting.

Matthew 18:21–22 (AV)<sup>21</sup> Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? <sup>22</sup> Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

Luke 17:3–4 (AV)<sup>3</sup> **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.**

The Darker Our People Get, The Brighter we Shine by Overcoming them with Goodness

Romans 12:19–21 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. <sup>21</sup> **Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Matthew 5:43–44 (AV)<sup>43</sup> *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.* <sup>44</sup> *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

We Shine our Light when we Overcome the Evil of People with the Goodness and Love of God.

## ***Overshadowing The World***

John 1: <sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (***Overshadow***)

John 1: <sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> ***Which were born, not of blood,*** nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- When our Flesh gets Dark, we Overpower it with God's Spirit
- When our People get Dark, we Overcome them with God's Goodness & Love
- When our World gets Dark, we Overcome it with God's Word

Why does our World get Darker and Darker?

God's Word said in the last days, the world would be come worse and worse.

2 Timothy 3:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Matthew 24:11–12 (AV)<sup>11</sup> *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.* <sup>12</sup> *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.*

1 Peter 5:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The Darker Our World Gets, The Brighter We Shine By Overshadowing It

To Overshadow means to Extinguish, Quench, Snuff, Smother, and Eclipse.

Light and darkness cannot coexist; whenever light shows up, darkness is extinguished.

John 1:1–4 (AV)<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

The more word we have, the brighter our light becomes.

Psalms 119:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:105 (AV)<sup>105</sup> NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

1 John 4:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

We Shine Our Light when we Overcome this World with the Word of God!

## ***Light of the World II (Revealing The Vision)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Matthew 5:14–16 (AV)<sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Habakkuk 2:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. <sup>3</sup> For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

### ***Introduction***

As Salt of the Earth, we are the Seasoning, Preservative, Disinfectant, and Offering.

Last week we look at our duality as Christians to also be the Light of the World

Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

The Darker It Gets, The Brighter we Shine

- Overpowering The Flesh with the Spirit of God
- Overcoming The People with the Goodness of God
- Overshadowing The World with the Word of God

Lets move on to two other aspects of our power to influencing the world through our light; and that is our assignment to bring to the world Divine Vision and Direction.

Because of the Darkness of the World, simultaneously existing within us and those around us, we find a world filled with people without vision or direction.

NO VISION: Proverbs 29:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

NO DIRECTION: Proverbs 16:25 (AV)<sup>25</sup> There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

The Rulers of the Darkness of this World have us wandering aimlessly in the dark with nowhere to go (Vision), and no direction on how to get there (Direction)

Psalms 119:<sup>105</sup> Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet (**Direction**), and a light unto my path (**Vision**).

Next week we will talk about Direction, but today we want to look at our responsibility as the light of the world to reveal God's divine Vision!

Because we are the light, people drawn to us looking for answers.

In our lesson text, the people were in darkness, lost, distraught, and confused.

Habakkuk 2:<sup>1</sup> I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.

He came back with not only a Vision for his people, but a process that we are to follow as the Light of the World to Shine and Reveal God's Vision

### ***Watching for the Vision***

Habakkuk 2:<sup>1</sup> I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.

Without a Watchmen, the people will not get their Vision

A lot of people miss what God has for them because those who are to give it to them are not watching.

Isaiah 56:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

Prophets were compared to watchmen who would look out for the enemy and warn the people of any approaching danger.

Too many people are perishing because the watchmen are not watching.

A blind watchman can't see the vision, and a dumb or mute watchman can't bark to warn you when danger threatens the vision.

As the Light of the World, we must be willing to Watch for the Vision

The people around us don't know where they are going, don't have answers, are confused; and they need watchmen and women who will go get the vision.

Watchmen must have Double Vision (One Eye on God, and One Eye on the Devil)

Matthew 25:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

1 Peter 5:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

One eye on God, seeking the face of God, praying, interceding, fasting.

One eye on the Devil, binding, rebuking, overcoming evil with good.

I see the devil trying to destroy you, but I also see God working it out for you.

The devil is coming in like a flood to destroy you, but God shown me that no weapon formed against you shall prosper.

To Get the Vision, You Got to Watch for It!

### ***Writing the Vision***

Habakkuk 2:<sup>2</sup> And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables,

that he may run that readeth it.

Without a Writer, the people will Miss the Vision

The 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of our lesson text is translated write is so big that it can be read even if the person is on the run.

Many Christians have the answers, the word of knowledge, the vision for the world; but it's written so small in their lives, that the world keeps missing it.

People are busy, on the run, chasing down the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches that they are missing the vision that God has given us.

We have too many undercover Christians, on the downlow Saints of God, in the closet Preachers, too many in the backroom Prophets.

And the people are missing their divine answers, directions, and vision.

As the Light of the World, we must be willing to Write the Vision Big

We may ridicule us and talk about us, but we must never be ashamed of the God in us; we must Write it Big.

Mark 8:38 (AV)<sup>38</sup> **Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**

If you're going to be saved, be saved Big, be holy Big, be a preacher Big, be righteous Big. Go Big or Go Home!

Romans 1:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

To Not Miss the Vision, You Got To Write It Big.

### ***Waiting on the Vision***

Habakkuk 2: <sup>3</sup> For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

As the Light of the World, God has called us to Shine our Light on His Vision

1. To Get the Vision, You Got to Watch for It (Double Vision)
2. To Not Miss the Vision, You Got to Write It Big (Don't' Be Ashamed)
3. To Reveal the Vision, You Got to Wait for It

Without Patience, the people with Give up on the Vision

Some give up on the Vision because others get it before them

Psalms 73:1-3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. <sup>3</sup> For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I

saw the prosperity of the wicked.

**Some give up on the Vision because they lose hope and faith**

Hebrews 11:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Ephesians 6:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

**Some give up on the Vision because they have been through too much**

Psalms 34:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

2 Corinthians 4:8<sup>8</sup> *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

**To Reveal the Vision, You Got To Wait for It**

Habakkuk 2: <sup>3</sup> For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Psalms 27:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Job 14:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Isaiah 40:30–31 (AV)<sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: <sup>31</sup> But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

**The World need to see us waiting on the Vision; Just wait on it, it shall surely come to past!**

## ***Light of the World III (Ordering Your Steps)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Matthew 7:13–15 (AV)<sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <sup>14</sup> Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. <sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Psalms 37:23–25 (AV)<sup>23</sup> The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. <sup>24</sup> Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with* his hand. <sup>25</sup> I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalms 119:133 (AV)<sup>133</sup> Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

As the Light of the World, we first said “The Darker it Gets the Brighter we Shine”

Last week we begin to look at 2 other aspect of Influencing the World with our Light; namely through Divine Vision and Divine Direction

Light of the World II (Revealing The Vision)

- Watching for the Vision (Double Vision)
- Writing the Vision (Go Big or Go Home)
- Waiting on the Vision (Never Give Up)

Let's now move on to Divine Direction.

Vision is the light of where we're going, Direction is the light of how we get there!

Proverbs 29:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

Proverbs 16:25 (AV)<sup>25</sup> There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Without Vision we Perish and without Direction we Die!

Once you get the Vision, there is a challenge in finding and staying on the right path to get there.

In Matthew 7, Jesus warns us that the way or path that will appeal to us will be wrong and lead ultimately to our death. Many will follow this wrong path and only a few will find the true, narrow path.

One of the reasons will be because of false prophets, and the other because self!

Matthew 6:9–13 (AV)<sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed

be thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Psalm 119:<sup>105</sup> Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet (**Direction**), and a light unto my path (**Vision**).

Illustration: Light as Vision, Lamp as Direction, and Lights of Distractions.

We must use the lamp of God's word to order our steps to influence the world.

### ***Ordering Your Steps From Temptation to Triumph***

Psalm 37:<sup>23</sup> The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

The first challenge to ordering our steps is Temptations vs. Tribulation

The reason why so many people's steps are disordered is because they follow the light of temptations rather than tribulations (or trouble).

Temptations are the act of tempting or the state of being tempted especially to evil. It is enticement, attraction, lure, or inducement away from the things of God.

1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

These tempting ungodly lights use our carnal desires against us to tempt us from the path that God has for us.

Matthew 7:<sup>13</sup> **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:**

We must order our steps through the path of Tribulations to get to Triumph

The path we are to take is the one lighted with Tribulations; that is troubles, distresses, problems, trials, and sufferings

Luke 4:2–4 (AV)<sup>2</sup> Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. <sup>3</sup> And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**

With the word of God we are able to escape temptations and overcome tribulations

1 Corinthians 10:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

Psalm 34:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Matthew 6:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, ...**

2 Corinthians 2:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ,

and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

To be ordered to Triumph, we must be willing to be lead through Tribulations

### ***Ordering Your Steps From Evil to Good***

Psalm 37:<sup>24</sup> Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down for the LORD upholdeth *him with his hand*

The second challenge to ordering our steps is Evil vs. Evidence

It's not that we go looking for evil, but on the wrong path, evil always find us.

And when it finds us, we fall.

We fall when the flesh within us gives in to the temptations around us.

James 1:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Romans 7:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

We must order our steps through the path of Evidence to get to Goodness

Hebrews 11:<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Even though we fall, we have the Evidence of Faith in God's Word to deliver us.

Proverbs 24:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again:...

Matthew 6:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: ...**

Romans 12:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Psalm 23:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

To be ordered to Goodness, we must be willing to be lead through Goodness.

### ***Ordering Your Steps From Death to Life***

Psalm 37:23–25 (AV)<sup>23</sup> ***The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:*** and he delighteth in his way. <sup>24</sup> ***Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down:*** for the LORD upholdeth *him with his hand.* <sup>25</sup> ***I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken,*** nor his seed begging bread.

The Light of Tribulations Orders our Steps from Temptations to Triumphs

- 2 Corinthians 2:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

The Light of Evidence of our Faith Orders our Steps to Evil to Good

- Proverbs 24:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again:...

- Psalm 23:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### Finally the Light of Righteousness Orders Our Steps from Death to Life

- Psalm 37: <sup>25</sup> I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

### Don't let your sins lead you to death, allow your Destiny to lead you to Life

Matthew 6:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 23:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

John 14:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

### The Light Orders Our Steps from Death to Life

- Romans 6:23 (AV)<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### The Light Orders Our Steps from Suffering to Glory

- Romans 8:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

### The Light Orders Our Steps Beginning to Ending

- Jeremiah 29:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

### The Light Orders Our Steps from Poverty to Blessings

- Proverbs 10:22 (AV)<sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

## ***Light of the World IV (Out of Darkness, Into The Marvelous Light)***

### ***Lesson Text***

1 Peter 2:7–9 (AV)<sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, <sup>8</sup> And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. <sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psalms 27:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup> When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. <sup>3</sup> Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

### ***Introduction***

Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

Vision is the light of where we're going, Direction is the light of how we get there!

Light of the World III (Ordering Your Steps)

- Ordering Your Steps From Temptation to Triumph (Tribulations)
- Ordering Your Steps From Evil to Good (Evidence)
- Ordering Your Steps From Death to Life (Righteousness)

Today we want to juxtapose the state of the worlds darkness to our calling to the Light

Eph 6: <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the **rulers of the darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

When Satan was cast out of heaven, he through this world into chaos and darkness to be ruled in darkness by rulers of the darkness of this world!

Ephesians 2:<sup>2</sup> **Wherein in time past ye walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

And the way they maintain their power is to keep us in darkness.

They rule to keep us in The Darkness of Ignorance

Contrary to the axiom or idiom that says “Ignorance is bliss; what you don’t know can’t hurt”, Actually it will destroy you.

They rule to keep us in The Darkness of Fear

Darkness has a way of invoking the emotion of fear, which makes us afraid to move forward as a result of the fear of what might happen.

They rule to keep us in The Darkness of Weakness

Without the power of the sun and light, we naturally grow weak until we have no more strength to complete our missing or assignment.

Ephesians 2:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

God quickened, that is brought us to life, and then called us out of Darkness.

1 Peter 2: <sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

### ***Out of the Darkness of Ignorance***

1 Peter 2: <sup>8</sup> And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

The First level of Darkness is Ignorance

What You Don't Know Will Destroy You!

The premise of "Ignorance is Bliss" is that if you don't know a thing, then you won't worry about it.

But ignorance is not bliss, it can destroy you.

Hosea 4:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Our youth are being destroyed when they are in the darkness of ignorance

Our marriages, our friends and neighbors, our marriages and families are being destroyed when they are in the darkness of ignorance

1 Peter 5:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Called Out of Darkness into the Marvelous Light of Truth

1 Peter 2: <sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Darkness has people in poverty, in brokenness, in bondage, blindness, oppression

We are called to bring them out of darkness into His marvelous light of truth

Luke 4:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

John 8:32 (AV)<sup>32</sup> *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

Called Out of the Darkness of Ignorance, Into the Marvelous Light of Truth

## ***Out of the Darkness of Fear***

Psalm 27: <sup>1</sup> The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

The Next Level of Darkness is Fear

What You Don't See Will Frighten You!

Another aspect of darkness is the reality that it produces fear.

Hollywood uses darkness in their movies to engender a fear response, and it works

The threat of the unknown, whether it's real or not, produces fear.

We become afraid of what might happen tomorrow, what might happen to our marriage, what might happen to our health, what might happen to our life.

2 Timothy 1:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Called Out of Darkness into the Marvelous Light of Faith

1 Peter 2: <sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Darkness has people in fear, in anxiety, worry, distress, terror, and panic.

We are called to bring them out of danger into His marvelous light of faith

Although the devil may be there, but now we can see him; but we can also see that they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

Most people want to see, but: 2 Corinthians 5:<sup>7</sup> (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Called Out of the Darkness of Fear, Into the Marvelous Light of Faith

## ***Out of the Darkness of Weakness***

Psalm 27:1-3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

The Final Level of Darkness is Weakness

We are Called to...

1. Bring them Out of the Darkness of Ignorance into the Marvelous Light of Truth
2. Bring them Out of the Darkness of Fear into the Marvelous Light of Faith
3. Bring them Out of the Darkness of Weakness into the Marvelous Light of Power

What You Don't Defeat Will Stop You

When God calls us, he calls us with purpose, he calls with a mission, he calls us with

an assignment, he calls us with destiny.

And the enemy uses the darkness of weakness to stop us!

We have no more strength to keep going, no strength to fulfill our purpose, no strength to complete our mission, no strength to finish our assignment, and no strength to reach our destiny.

If we don't defeat this devil, we will be stopped!

Called out of Darkness into the Marvelous Light of Power

1 Peter 2: <sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

And when God Called us, he called us with Power!

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Luke 10:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Romans 8:36–37 (AV)<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

We will not be stopped, we have the power to fulfill purpose, the power to complete our mission, the power to finish our assignment, the power to get to our expected end!

## ***Light of the World V (The Everlasting Light)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Zechariah 4:1–6 (AV)<sup>1</sup> And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, <sup>2</sup> And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all *of* gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which *are* upon the top thereof: <sup>3</sup> And two olive trees by it, one upon the right *side* of the bowl, and the other upon the left *side* thereof. <sup>4</sup> So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What *are* these, my lord? <sup>5</sup> Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. <sup>6</sup> Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 5:15–16 (AV)<sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

### ***Introduction***

Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

Subject: Light of the World IV (Out of Darkness, Into The Marvelous Light)

- Called Out of the Darkness of Ignorance, Into the Marvelous Light of Truth
- Called Out of the Darkness of Fear, Into the Marvelous Light of Faith
- Called out of Darkness of Weakness into the Marvelous Light of Power

Let's now look at the source of our Light

Matthew 5: <sup>15</sup> **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.**

The challenge we have as Christians is maintaining our light. When we accept Christ, we all are given the light, but the problem comes when our light goes out.

When the world sees us shining one day, and the next day we have no light, it impacts our ability to influence the world.

Galatians 5:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

In our first lesson text, we see a picture of our light on a candlestick.

There's a bowl on top filled with oil.

The bowl is feeding seven pipes which are feeding seven lamps of light.

Now the source of the oil comes from two olive trees on the left and right.

Zechariah 4: <sup>5</sup> Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what

these be? And I said, No, my lord.

This was the time when the first group of the tribe of Judah had returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of Babylonian captivity; to rebuild the temple.

Zerubbabel was the civil leader of Jerusalem; He represented human might (brawn: ability, wealth, resources, and physical strength).

Joshua was the religious head of Jerusalem; He represented human power (brains: mind, material, and mental strength)

Now because of the because of the Danger from without, and the discouragement from within, the people were starting to lose their faith in their Might and Power.

It is in our Key verse that God assures them that their light would not go out:

Zerubbabel (human might) was one olive tree feeding the light!

Joshua (human power) was the other olive tree feeding the light!

Zechariah 4: <sup>6</sup> Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

### ***The Light of Might (Fighting the Danger from Without)***

Zechariah 4: <sup>6</sup> Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might**, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Might is what most people use to battle the danger from without.

The Problem with Human Might as the Source of Our Light

**“Might”** comes from the Hebrew word “Khah”, and is a general word for human resources such as physical strength, human ability, or wealth.

Might is great and impressive power or strength, especially of a nation, large organization, or natural force. It would be the brawn of man or human ability.

Zerubbabel represented one of the olive trees supplying oil to the candlestick. He was the civil leader of Jerusalem.

This source of light comes from human pride! It’s based in the adage “Might is Right”; so if we have enough power, people, resources, money; then we’re right!

It is epitomized by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Daniel 4: <sup>30</sup> The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

When our Light is based on our might, God resists us.

James 4:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Nebuchadnezzar lost his kingdom and everything he had and turned into a beast.

### Not By Might

Sometimes we become disheartened by our ***Might***: disheartened when people fail us, disheartened when money fails us, disheartened when life fails us.

Psalm 146:3–4 (AV)<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help. <sup>4</sup> His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

God's word to Zerubbabel was, "Don't be disheartened by your numbers and the danger from without because it's ***Not By Might***!"

### ***The Light of Power (Fighting the Discouragement from Within)***

Zechariah 4: <sup>6</sup> Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, ***nor by power***, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Power is what most people use to battle the discouragement from within.

### The Problem with Human Power as the Source of Our Light

***"Power"*** comes from the Hebrew word "Kowach", and it also denotes mere human strength, but deals more with material or mental strength.

It is the ability to do something or act in a particular way.

Joshua represented the other olive tree supplying oil to the candlestick. He was the religious head of Jerusalem.

This source of light comes from human righteousness! It is the belief that we can earn what's right. If we just live saved enough, holy enough, righteous enough.

Isaiah 64:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Galatians 5:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

### Nor By Power

Sometimes we become discouraged by our ***Power***: discouraged when we're let down by those we believed in; discouraged when we're deceived by those we trusted; discouraged when we're betrayed by those closest to us.

Philippians 4:6–7 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Again God's Word to Zerubbabel was, "Don't be disheartened by the discouragement from within because it's "Not by Might, ***Nor By Power***!"

## ***The Light of Spirit (Fighting with the Everlasting Light)***

Zechariah 4: <sup>6</sup> Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, **but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

We must battle to continue to shine our light before men

1. It's **Not By Might**: The Pride of our human abilities, resources, or strength
2. It's **Not By Power**: The Righteousness of our human mind, emotions, or will.
3. But it's **By My Spirit** says the Lord of Hosts!

The Source of our Light to the World must be the Spirit of God's Power

The Power of the Holy Ghost

- Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

The Power of our Spiritual Weapons

- 2 Corinthians 10:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

The Power of our Prayers

- James 5:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The Power of our Unity

- Matthew 18:<sup>19</sup> **Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**

The Power of our Spiritual Access

- Matthew 16:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

## ***Light of the World VI (The Glory of God's Light)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Matthew 5:14–16 (AV)<sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Romans 8:14–18 (AV)<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup> The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: <sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. <sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

### ***Introduction***

Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

Last Week Subject: Light of the World V (The Everlasting Light)

- The Light of Might (Fighting the Danger from Without – Not By Might)
- The Light of Power (Fighting the Discouragement from Within – Nor by Power)
- The Light of Spirit (Fighting with the Everlasting Light – But by My Spirit)

Today we want to look at the ultimate effect of God's Light, and that is demonstrate and reveal His Glory

Glory: praise, honor, or distinction extended by common consent: renown, worshipful praise, honor, and thanksgiving; giving *glory* to God

The challenge that we have today in our modern churches is not that God isn't saving, it's that too many Christians are hiding their light under a bushel.

There're saved, but their hiding it under the bushel of unconfessed sin

There're saved, but their hiding it under the bushel of inconsistent living

There're saved, but their hiding it under the bushel of conforming to the world

There're saved, but their hiding it under the bushel of impatience to suffering

Matthew 5:<sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

And the way we shine our light is through our Salvation, our Redemption, our Transformation, and Finally our Tribulation.

## ***Shinning the Glory of Salvation (Saved)***

Romans 8:<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

As Christians, we are to Shine the Light of God's Glory with our Salvation.

As sinners we were lost, void of light, in darkness, and destined for destruction.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (AV)<sup>9</sup> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, <sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Shine the Glory of God's Light with Your Testimony

The first thing that happens with a prisoner that has death sentence is he gets a pardon or a commutation. He may be guilty, but the Authority gives mercy!

Revelation 12:10–11 (AV)<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

“Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but not I see.”

“When I look back over my life, and I think things over. I can truly say, that I've been blessed, I have a testimony!”

## ***Shinning the Glory of Redemption (Freed)***

Romans 8:<sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Second, we are to Shine the Light of God's Glory with our Redemption.

Redemption is the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment. The action of buying one's freedom.

Once we are saved, we must be freed from the bondage and captivity of Sin.

Romans 6:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

The truth is too many Christians hide their light because of an inconsistency of living free from sin because of the captivity of our sinful nature and lusts.

Romans 7:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Shine the Glory of God's Light with Your Liberty

After Emancipation, some slaves stayed on the Plantation

There must be a physical act of Liberty (Faith without Works is Dead)

2 Corinthians 3:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

Galatians 5:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

“Look at me, I have been set free. All my sins are washed away, my nights turned to day. All because Christ has set me free”

### ***Shinning the Glory of Transformation (Changed)***

Romans 8: <sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Third, we are to Shine the Light of God’s Glory with our Transformation.

Transformation is a thorough or dramatic change, a metamorphosis. It is the process by which one thing is converted into another.

The other challenge we have in shinning our light is when we don’t demonstrate a change in the way we think, the way we feel, and the way we behave.

Too many Christians still act based on their emotions and feelings.

Ephesians 4:<sup>26</sup> Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: <sup>27</sup> Neither give place to the devil.

Shine the Glory of God’s Light with Your Change

Some people, even when they get out of jail, don’t get jail out of them!

So although they are free, because they haven’t changed, they go back in!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

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

“I know I've been changed I know I've been changed I know I've been changed  
I know I've been changed I know I've been changed I know I've been changed  
Angels in Heaven done signed my name.”

### ***Shinning the Glory of Tribulations (Exalted)***

Romans 8: <sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

## To Shine the Glory of God's Light

- First, we Shine the Glory of our Salvation with our Testimony
- Second, we Shine the Glory of our Redemption with our Liberty
- Third, we Shine the Glory of our Transformation with our Change

Finally, we Shine the Glory of our Tribulation with our Exaltation

Too many Christians don't know how to handle their sufferings

Even when you get out, people don't want to let you out!

When prisoners get free, they have to say on applications, "Convicted Felon"!

Psalm 34:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (AV)<sup>8</sup> *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

## Shine the Glory of God's Light with your Patience

James 1:2–4 (AV)<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; <sup>3</sup> Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

1 Peter 5:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

Isaiah 40: <sup>31</sup> But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Romans 8: <sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Reveal the Glory of His Anointing, the Glory of His Blessings, the Glory of His Victory, the Glory of His Deliverance, the Glory of His Liberty, the Glory of His Exaltation.

## ***Light of the World VII (The Fire of God's Light)***

### ***Lesson Text***

Jeremiah 20:7–9 (AV)<sup>7</sup> O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. <sup>8</sup> For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. <sup>9</sup> Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

1 Kings 18:21–24 (AV)<sup>21</sup> And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word. <sup>22</sup> Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men. <sup>23</sup> Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: <sup>24</sup> And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

1 Kings 18:37–39 (AV)<sup>37</sup> Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again. <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench. <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.

### ***Introduction***

Matthew 5: <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

Matthew 5:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Last Week Subject: The Glory of God's Light

- Salvation with Testimony
- Redemption with Liberty
- Transformation with Change
- Tribulation with Exaltation

Let's now look at our being the light of the world from the perspective of Fire.

We all have pivotal moments in life, experiences we see through the Prism of Fire:

The experiences of life that are like Fire that Burns and Hurts us.

The experiences of life that are like Fire that Comforts and Warms us.

The experiences of life that are like Fire that Consumes and Devours us.

In our first lesson text Jeremiah was having such an experience

Jeremiah 20:<sup>7</sup> O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Jeremiah was struggling with God's prophesy of captivity for Israel. How could God do this? He promised to not turn us over to our enemies!

Jeremiah felt so deceived, misled, and pushed into this burning fire, that that hurt caused him to want to quit.

Jeremiah 20: <sup>9</sup> Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name.

But the same fire that burns and has another purpose, which is to try and prove.

Like many of us, Jeremiah misunderstood God's promise. The promise was never that he wouldn't suffer, but that God would deliver him.

Jeremiah 1:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

And because He had God's Word in him, the fire cause his faith to shine!

Jeremiah 20: <sup>9</sup> ... But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

Fire doesn't just Burn and Hurt, it Tries our Faith; Fire doesn't just Warm and Comfort, it Answers our Faith; and Fire doesn't just Consume and Devour, it Proves our Faith.

Matthew 5:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

As a light to this world, we must make sure that when the experiences of life produce fire, that what the world sees is not our hurts, discomforts, and loss; but God's Glory through our Faith!

### ***The Burning Fire that Tries our Faith***

Jeremiah 20:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Fire that Hurts

This life experience of fire is the burning fire that hurts.

For some it is the hurt and pain of personal failure, for others it is the hurt and pain from people especially those close to us, and even the pain and disappoint concerning the things of God.

Just like Jeremiah, we all struggle with this pain and hurt from the burning fire; so much so that we just want to resign, quit, and give up.

Jeremiah 20: <sup>9</sup> Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name...

We resign from our ministries, we quit our jobs, we give up on our marriages.

### Burning Fire Tries Your Faith

Jeremiah wanted to quit, but he couldn't quit. Why? Because the same fire that burned and hurt him, also exposed the faith that was shut up in his bones.

Jeremiah 20: <sup>9</sup> .. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

When the word is in you, fire simply provokes and tries your faith!

James 1:2-3 (AV)<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; <sup>3</sup> Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

1 Peter 1: <sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Burning Fire may Hurt, but it also Tries Your Faith.

### ***The Reacting Fire that Answers our Faith***

1 Kings 18: <sup>24</sup> And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

#### Fire that Comforts

When a person has been hurt, they naturally look for something that comforts

The only problem is that most people look to the wrong fire, using the wrong fuel

And therein lies the problem: When we get hurt, we get into our feelings, our emotions, and our pride. And so we look for a fire that caters to our flesh.

Romans 7:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And so the fire that we get is an answer to fuel that we give out, our flesh.

This was the case with the Children of Israel from our second lesson text; because of their flesh, they fueled a fire that produced a false god and false prophets.

#### Reacting Fire Answers our Faith

As Christians, we have to move from fueling our with our faith and not our flesh.

The prophet Elijah challenged the people to call upon their God, and he would call upon his, to see whose God would answer by fire.

The world calls upon their god with their flesh to lick their wounds, but we call upon

our God with our Faith.

Hebrews 11:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The world seeks comfort, but when we call upon God, we get deliverance.

Psalm 34:<sup>19</sup> Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all

Reacting Fire may Comfort, but it also Answers our Faith

### ***The Consuming Fire that Proves our Faith***

1 Kings 18: <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

The Fire of God's Light is

- A Burning Fire that Tries our Faith
- A Reacting Fire that Answers our Faith
- A Consuming Fire that Proves out Faith

A Consuming Fire can Devour and Destroy

The enemy wants to complete devour and destroy us.

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

1 Peter 5:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

But God uses the Consuming Fire to Prove our Faith

1 Kings 18: <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.

This is the fire where even your enemies will have to say God is God

Matthew 5:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Romans 8:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

## ***Thank You***

Pastor Wil Nichols is the founder and pastor of Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ, a progressive cutting edge outreach ministry in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He is a first class husband, dedicated father, and a committed shepherd to the Body of Christ. He has a B.S. degree in Computer Science from Michigan State University, Salutatorian of his class from the Greater NC COGIC Academy, and Doctorate in Theology from St. Thomas Seminary and Christian University.

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