

Lesson 3
Matthew 5:13-16
A Christian's Influence: Salt and Light
Textbook pages 57-68

1. The calling of the church is to serve the persecuting world
2. Two examples – both used in Jesus' house
 - Light need is obvious
 - Salt
 - Preservative
 - Condiment

World	Church
Dark place	Has the light of the gospel
Will rot - deteriorate	Can preserve

- God intends that the most powerful restraint within this sinful society is his own redeemed, regenerate, and righteous people.
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10 You are –
 - Statement of fact
 - Not command to become
3. Salt
- Rottenness of the earth needs a preservative
 - Tendency to pollute and become foul
 - Illustrations in the Bible
 - Genesis 6:5 to 7 – rotten I will not strive with man
 - Genesis - Sodom and Gomorrah – Genesis 19:12
 - Ezekiel 16:4 – hygiene
 - Judges 9:45 - poisoned the ground
 - Salt
 - Preserve – negative function
 - Favor – positive function
 - Tasteless Salt – Ezekiel 4:7-11
 - Two views of salt
 - Church as a whole
 - Individual Christians
 - Example of salt – England spared from the great revolution by the revival led by John Wesley and George Whitfield

- Characteristics of Salt
 - Appearance
 - Flavor
 - Smell
 - Preservative power
- Emphasis is on retarding decay
- Imparting flavor should not be dismissed
 - Leviticus 2:13
 - Job 6:6
 - Colossians 4:6
- Speech seasoned with salt
 - Colossians 4:6
 - Ephesians 4:29
 - James 3:3-12
- John 17:15-19 – Jesus sends us into the world to preserve it
- Do you do the right thing because you believe it or because you are made to do it?
 - Matthew 12:32
 - Hebrews 6:4-6

4. Light - Positive

- True knowledge of God – Psalm 36:9 and Matthew 6:22, 23
- Goodness, righteousness and truthfulness – Ephesians 5:8,9
- Joy and gladness, true happiness – Psalm 97:11, Isaiah 9:1-7 and 60:19
- Include all blessings of salvation – Psalm 22:1, Luke 1:77-79
- We are never light in and by ourselves – we are moons, but suns
- We are lights in secondary derived sense – lighted lights – Christ is the sun and we are moons
- Followers of Christ are to be visible, seen by everyone and radiant
- Foolish to light a lamp and then cover it up
- Lamp would give light to everyone in the house
- Jesus – light of the world
 - John 8:12
 - Isaiah 9:2
 - Colossians 1:12-13
 - Ephesians 5:8-14
 - Isaiah 60:1-3
- It is the responsibility of Christians to share Jesus Christ so that others will see his salvation expressed in our daily lives.
- Actions speak louder than words