

***The New Normal  
Our Kingdom Identity  
Matthew 5:13-16***

***ONE THING***

***In a world bound in DECAYING DARKNESS, the CHURCH unleashes God's KINGDOM as we PERMEATE and ILLUMINATE!***

*Jesus was being followed by large crowds*

*He sat down on a mountain side and began to teach*

*The crowds surrounded Him, but His disciples drew near to hear Him teach*

*He laid out the KINGDOM ATTITUDES*

***ETERNAL***

- *Poor in Spirit – Kingdom of God*
- *Mourn – Comforted*
- *Meek – Inherit the earth*

***INTERNAL***

- *Hunger and Thirst – Filled*
- *Merciful – Receive Mercy*
- *Pure in Heart – See God*

***EXTERNAL***

- *Peacemakers – Called Sons of God*
- *Persecuted for Righteousness – Kingdom of God*

*On the heels of this massive attitude adjustment Jesus continues with these very familiar words to us*

***Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV) — “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.***

*In this passage, Jesus is telling us several very important truths about*

- *Our WORLD,*
- *Our SELF, and*
- *Our MISSION*

***1. Our IDENTITY – We are SALT and LIGHT***

***Matthew 5:13–14 (ESV) — “You are the salt of the earth ..., You are the light of the world...”***

***You are the Salt of the earth***

***You are the Light of the world***

*The “YOU” in this passage is EMPHATIC which means ...*

***You and you alone are the salt & light***

*The “YOU” is also PLURAL meaning that TOGETHER we are the difference makers*

*Together, as the collective body of Christ called the Church, we are the ONLY HOPE for this world*

***This is an amazing and important truth in which we MUST embrace***

***Both SALT & LIGHT are essential for life and health***

***→ Pic 1***

Salt	Light

***→ Pic 2***

Salt	Light
Flavor	
Preserve	
Thirst	

***→ Pic 3***

Salt	Light
Flavor	Illumine
Preserve	Energize
Thirst	Expose

***To us today, SALT is used as a SPICE to add flavor to our food***

***SALT also creates THIRST***

***They say, “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.”***

- ***However, if you put SALT tablets in the horses mouth, he’ll get thirsty enough to drink!***

***Also, SALT or Sodium is important for our health***

- ***When I go run, or ride my bike for a long distance, I SWEAT bad.***
- ***As a result, if I don’t hydrate my body and replenish my electrolytes I will dehydrate and begin to have muscle cramps***

***But, the PRIMARY purpose Jesus is talking about in this verse regarding the usage of SALT is as a PRESERVATIVE***

***Salt was used primarily as a preservative to protect meat from decay and disease***

***Jesus is telling His disciples that the world in which they live is constantly prone to decay and disease***

**Man is NOT improving!**

**The Biblical world view is that the world is decaying and diseased by sin**

**2 Timothy 3:13 (ESV) – ... evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.**

**Jesus also said that His disciples are the LIGHT of the world**

**In this Jesus is declaring that the world lives in darkness**

**Darkness is the absence of the presence of God**

**1 John 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

## **2. Our DANGER – To be POLLUTED or HIDDEN**

**Matthew 5:13–15 (ESV) — You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.**

**When salt is polluted by a number of other chemicals and/or minerals it loses its saltiness**

**James 4:8 (ESV) — Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

**1 John 3:2–3 (ESV) — Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

**When light is confined by being covered or hidden it is unable to shed its light**

**1 Thessalonians 5:5 (ESV) — For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.**

**Luke 11:34–36 (ESV) — Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”**

## **3. Our MISSION – To PERMEATE and ILLUMINATE**

**You ARE the Salt of the earth**

**You ARE the Light of the world**

**The world is placing it's hope in the idea that with enough knowledge, skill, and hard work, they can make this world a better place**

**Throughout the history of mankind people have fallen to this fallacy**

**Second, Jesus makes this amazing statement...**

**You ARE the salt and the light!**

**Jesus doesn't say being SALT and LIGHT is something we must work to achieve**

**He says WE ALREADY ARE these things!**

**John 8:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 5:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

**1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to

another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**Matthew 5:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**This verse can be used for both salt and light**

**The word "GOOD" here is not talking about GOOD DEEDS necessarily.**

**The word used by Jesus here for "GOOD" is the word "kalos" which means**

**- ATTRACTIVE or BEAUTIFUL**

- **As the Church permeates by being "rubbed in" to the world around us we preserve and hold back corruption and decay.**
- **As the Church illuminates by coming out of the confines of the building we expose and awaken the people around us.**