

OPENING TEXT: Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

“13 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. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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. 16 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.”

I. A CONSECRATED CHURCH (13) - "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."

NOTE: salt only loses its saltiness via contamination; sodium chloride never loses its chemical compound. It can become so contaminated, however, that it loses its savor.

“You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.” - Leviticus 2:13

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” - Colossians 4:6

“Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” - Mark 9:50

II. AN ILLUMINATED CHURCH (15) - "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. 16 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. - Matthew 5:13-16

NOTE: Christ did not light us up to blow us out. He lit us up to **lift us up**, so that our light would illuminate His face to all those who have eyes to see Him. We have no light of our own but, like the moon, we shine with borrowed light.

Good works - good works are intentional actions that God has commanded us to do in his Word that are the fruit and evidence of a true and lively faith in Him and love for people.

“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.” - John 8:12

“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” - Ephesians 5:8

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” - Philippians 2:14-15

III. AN ELEVATED CHURCH (14) - "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Yes, God wants us humble...but He also commands us to be conspicuous.

The difference is that humility puts God's glory on conspicuous display. Pride puts our own glory on display.

THE CHURCH MUST BECOME A HIGH-SODIUM, HIGH-WATTAGE & HIGH-HILLTOP CONSPICUOUSLY CONSECRATED PEOPLE