



*Go for God!*

## **“TAKE ACTION!!!”**

### **MATTHEW Chapter 5:13-16**

- Christians must act through the ministry of SALT and LIGHT, let's be what Jesus called us to be; *“You are the salt of the earth”* and *“You are the light of the world.”*

#### **> Take Action: *“You are the salt of the earth!”* (v13)**

- **Salt is a preservative**, Jesus said in **Mark 9:49-50** - *“For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”*

**Barnes** writes, “Salt renders food pleasant and palatable, and preserves from putrefaction. So Christians, by their lives and instructions, are to keep the world from entire moral corruption. By bringing down the blessing of God in answer to their prayers, and by their influence and example, they save the world from universal vice and crime.”

#### **- America began as a salty nation:**

**John Jay**, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court said, “We must select Christians as leaders.”

The **Supreme Court** said in **1892** that their decisions must be based on godly principles.

**Thomas Jefferson** declared, “Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have removed their only firm basis, that basis is a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God, that they are not to be violated but with His wrath!”

The Bible says in **Colossians 4:5-6** - *Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

#### **- Let's look at scriptures that are *seasoned with salt* – **Genesis 18:22 – 19:28.****

What about today? Jesus warns us in **Luke 17:20-36.**

**Jude 7** says, *“as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”*

In **Revelation 11:3-13** during the “Great Tribulation” (Rev. 6 – 19) we are given some insightful information concerning Jerusalem, the Holy City of God.

#### **- Salty believers are found in Hebrews chapter 11:**

- **Abel gave testimony of God!**
- **Enoch would not follow the ways of the world!**
- **Noah was a preacher of righteousness!**
- **Abraham was called to start a holy people!**
- **Isaac, Jacob, Joseph by faith perpetuated a holy people!**
- **Moses rejected the pleasures of the world, chose to suffer affliction, delivering the Hebrew people to the promise land!**
- **David and others through faith subdued kingdoms!**

## > **Take Action: - “You are the light of the world!” (v14-16)**

**LIGHT** is illumination; the opposite of darkness. The Bible speaks of light as the symbol of God's presence and righteous activity. Light has been associated with the presence, truth, and redemptive activity of God since creation. Before man was created, light was brought into being by the Creator: *"Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good"* (Gen 1:3-4).

**Throughout the Bible, light represents truth, goodness, and God's redemptive work. Darkness, on the other hand, symbolizes error, evil, and the works of Satan (Gen 1:4).**

Several of the miracles recorded in the Bible are related to light and darkness: the *"Pillar of Fire"* that guided the Israelites in the wilderness (Ex 3:21), the sun standing still at Gibeon at Joshua's request (Josh 10:12-13), and the fall of darkness at midday when Jesus was being crucified (Matt 27:45).

Man's misguided fascination with light caused some cultures of the ancient world to worship the sun and moon. Ur in Babylonia and several of the Canaanite cities had elaborate systems of moon worship. Use of light was common in the festivals of the Greek cults, especially those honoring Dionysus and Apollo.

**God or God's Word, the Bible, are frequently represented as lights or lamps to enlighten and guide the believer (1 John 1:5). "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105). The Psalmist also declared, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Ps 27:1). Light is also used as a symbol of holiness and purity. Paul counseled the Christians at Rome to "put on the armor of light" (Rom 13:12).**

**The New Testament presents Jesus as the personification of light or divine illumination: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Jesus and the New Testament writers extended the figure of light to include faithful Christian witnesses, who were called "children of light" (Eph 5:8).**

**Jesus plainly stated that those who rejected this divine light would bring judgment upon themselves in John 3:16-21 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."**

- Let's see how Christ illuminated a man's eyes, mind and heart in **John ch. 9.**

- In this chapter we see the:

Believer's Progress

vs.

Blasphemer's Progress

(v11) *A man called Jesus*

(v16a) *this man* (referring to Jesus)

(v17) *He is a prophet*

(v16b,24) *this man a sinner*

(v35-38) *He is the Son of God*

(ch. 10:20) *this man has a demon*

- Peter proclaims a message of "salt and light" on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:38-42 - *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

*And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*