

BEING  
**SALT & LIGHT**  
IN  
**AMERICAN  
SOCIETY**

A photograph of a city street at dusk, featuring a large white text overlay. The scene includes a multi-story building with a grid of windows, palm trees, a traffic light, and a blurred orange bus. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

What is this election cycle revealing  
to us about the soul of America?

A circular logo with a white background and a green and purple gradient. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY

# We are salt and light to a world that desperately needs it

Matthew 5

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

this is our basic identity

this is a description of a world that needs salt and light

BEING  
**SALT & LIGHT**  
IN  
**AMERICAN  
SOCIETY**

# We are salt and light to a world that desperately needs it

Our identity is based on God,  
and not in how this world sees  
us or treats us

So our sense of well-being, and  
hope for the world is based on  
God's will and purposes, not  
just on what is going on out  
there

BEING  
**SALT & LIGHT**  
IN  
**AMERICAN  
SOCIETY**

Philippians 3

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

Hebrews 11

<sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

# We are salt and light to a world that desperately needs it

We must live and speak so that even though we might be criticized, we function like salt and light for our world

1 Peter 2

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY

# 1st Century Christians shown and seasoned in a world like this

John 16.33

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY

# 1st Century Christians shown and seasoned in a world like this

They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives.

*The Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus (AD 130)*

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY

# 1st Century Christians shown and seasoned in a world like this

They love all men and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death and restored to life. They are poor yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things and yet abound in all; they are dishonored and yet in their very dishonor are glorified. They are evil spoken of and yet are justified; they are reviled and bless; they are insulted and repay the insult with honor; they do good yet are punished as evildoers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred. To sum it all up in one word -- what the soul is to the body, that are Christians in the world.

*The Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus (AD 130)*

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY



# 1st Century Christians shown and seasoned in a world like this

Christianity served as a revitalization movement that arose in response to the misery, chaos, fear, and brutality of life in the urban Greco-Roman world. . . . Christianity revitalized life in Greco-Roman cities by providing new norms and new kinds of social relationships able to cope with many urgent problems. To cities filled with the homeless and impoverished, Christianity offered charity as well as hope. To cities filled with newcomers and strangers, Christianity offered an immediate basis for attachment. To cities filled with orphans and widows, Christianity provided a new and expanded sense of family. To cities torn by violent ethnic strife, Christianity offered a new basis for social solidarity. And to cities faced with epidemics, fire, and earthquakes, Christianity offered effective nursing services. . . . For what they brought was not simply an urban movement, but a new culture capable of making life in Greco-Roman cities more tolerable."

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, Princeton University Press, 1996, page 161.



**“I’m Salt. I’m Light.”**

Clarity of Identity Amidst Conflict

**“I’ll Salt. I’ll Light.”**

Courageous Confidence to Act in the Common Good

**“I’m Salt. I’m Light.”**

Clarity of Identity Amidst Conflict

**“I’ll Salt. I’ll Light.”**

Courageous Confidence to Act in the Common Good

ask for wisdom  
to support  
others as an ally  
without being  
co-opted by  
their agenda or  
politics

**“I’m Salt. I’m Light.”**

Clarity of Identity Amidst Conflict

**“I’ll Salt. I’ll Light.”**

Courageous Confidence to Act in the Common Good

ask God for  
wisdom to  
support others  
as an ally without  
being co-opted  
by their agenda  
or politics

*“I support you  
and love you  
even though I  
don’t agree with  
everything you  
believe or stand  
for”*

# Don't live out of fear and anxiety

Live and speak so that even though we might be criticized, we function like salt and light for our world

2 Timothy 1:7

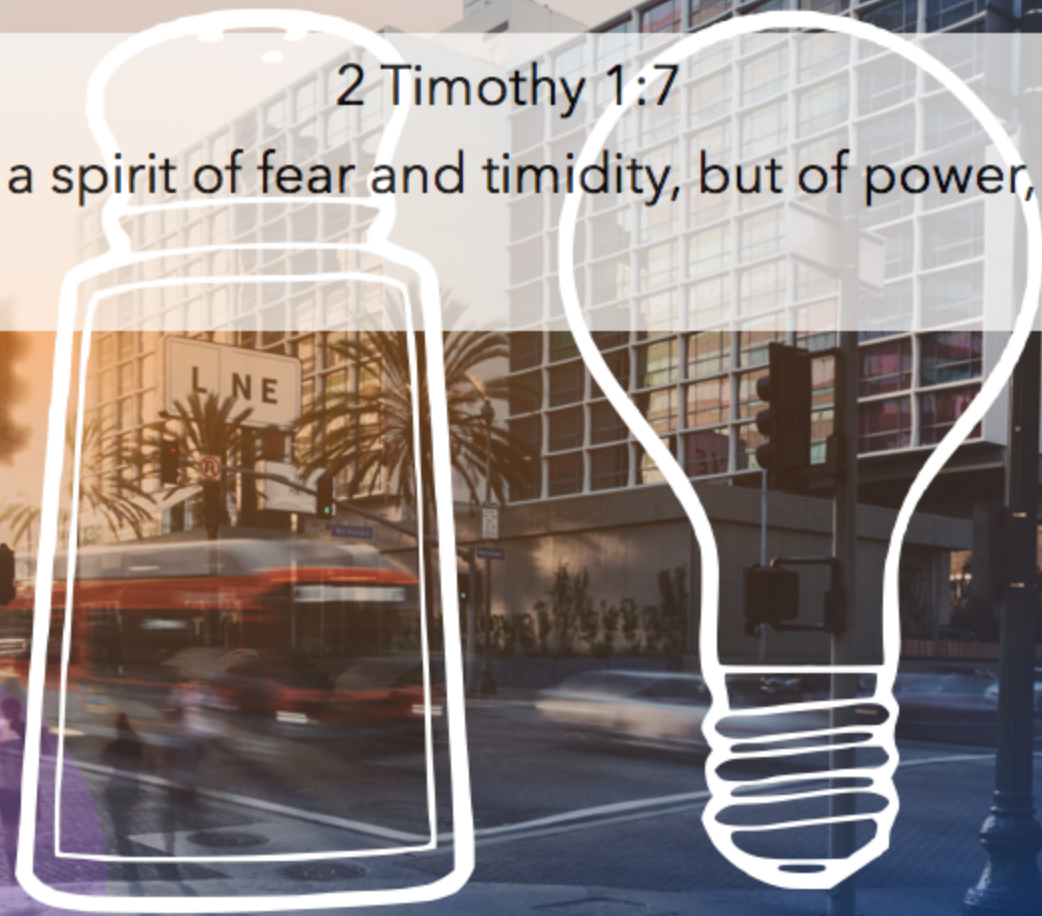
For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY

# Don't live out of fear and anxiety

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.



BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY

# Be in this for the long haul

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY

# Specific Thoughts on Voting

Vote against pot.

God's care for the poor and marginalized and equity of opportunity.

Stewardship of the environment.

I am concerned about the social agenda that has taken place over the last eight years and its speeding up these next four years

I am concerned that the ways many Christians are talking about this election will have negative impact on our ability to reach the next generations.

BEING  
SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY



Our most serious concern ... is not with those in Washington; it is with the American people. What has alarmed me throughout this episode has been the willingness of my fellow citizens to rationalize the President's behavior even after they suspected, and later knew, that he was lying. Because the economy is strong, millions of people have said infidelity in the Oval Office is just a private affair—something between himself and Hillary. We heard it time and again during those months: "As long as Mr. Clinton is doing a good job, it's nobody's business what he does with his personal life." ...

As it turns out, character DOES matter. You can't run a family, let alone a country, without it. How foolish to believe that a person who lacks honesty and moral integrity is qualified to lead a nation and the world! Nevertheless, our people continue to say that the President is doing a good job even if they don't respect him personally. Those two positions are fundamentally incompatible. In the Book of James the question is posed, "Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring" (James 3:11 NIV). The answer is no ...

James Dobson, Focus on the Family, 1998

**“Who are you voting for?”**

**A**

an **A**merica

**B**

Becomes **B**etter not bitter because of this year

**C**

**C**ivility and generosity mark how we act toward other Americans and countries

**D**

Where **D**ifferences of race, religion and gender become something we appreciate, rather than make enemies out of

**E**

**E**veryone lives out mercy, justice and humility that the Bible talks about

**F**

Where kids have a **F**air, wholesome, and healthy world to live in

**“If you believed that God existed and cared about this country, what would you pray for?”**

Repent

Commit

Pray