“the SALT and LIGHT effect” *Sermon Notes* *Brad Brenner* *October 25th, 2026*

Big Idea:

Jesus calls His church to wake up, remember who we are, and live as salt and light in a dark and broken world.

Key Scriptures:

- **Romans 13:10–12** — Wake up; salvation is nearer now.
- **1 Corinthians 9:24–27** — Run with purpose and discipline.
- **Matthew 16:15–18** — Jesus builds His church, and the gates of hell will not prevail.
- **2 Timothy 2:3–4** — Endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ.
- **2 Timothy 2:24–26** — People are held captive by the enemy and need truth and freedom.
- **Matthew 5:13–16** — You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

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1. Believers Must Wake Up Spiritually

- Paul warns believers that it is possible to fall asleep in our faith. Scripture repeatedly calls Christians to be alert, watchful, sober-minded, and careful not to drift.
- When the sacred becomes mundane, we begin to lose sight of the privilege of salvation, the beauty of grace, and the purpose God has given us. Instead of living with gratitude and mission, we can become distracted, entitled, or spiritually passive.

Reminder: We must live with purpose in every step, remembering who we are and why we are here.

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2. The Church Is God’s Idea

- In **Matthew 16**, Jesus says, **“I will build my church.”** The church belongs to Christ. He is the head, the authority, and the source of life for His people.
- The church is not simply a weekly gathering or a religious organization. It is the body of Christ, called to represent Jesus and reveal the wisdom of God to the world.
- There is no perfect church because every church is made up of imperfect people. Still, God’s design for the church is perfect, and we are called to strive toward that design together.

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3. The Church Is Called Into a Spiritual Battle

- Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail against His church. This means there is a real spiritual battle taking place.
- Christians are not called to a life of ease or comfort, but to loyalty, endurance, and faithfulness. Paul tells Timothy to **“endure hardship”** like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
- Our battle is not against people, politics, governments, schools, or organizations. Scripture teaches that our struggle is against spiritual forces of darkness. People are often blinded, deceived, and held captive by the enemy.

Our mission is not to hate people, but to help free captives with the truth and love of Jesus.

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4. The Church Is Not a Fortress, but an Invading Force

- The church is not meant to hide from the world. Jesus sends His people into the darkness as light.
- The church is not a "*fort*" where Christians gather only to be safe. It is more like a locker room where believers are reminded, strengthened, and sent back out on mission.
- We do not merely "*go to church*"; **we are the church**. Individually and collectively, believers are missionaries in their homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

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5. Consumer Christianity Distracts Us From the Mission

- It is easy for church to become about personal preference: what we want, what we like, or what we feel we are getting.
- But discipleship asks a different question:

  "Lord Jesus, how can I use all that I am, alongside other believers, to glorify You and help others know You?"
- The church is not primarily about meeting our personal wants. It is about joining Christ's mission with loyalty, humility, and love.

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6. Jesus Calls Us to Be Salt and Light

In **Matthew 5**, Jesus tells His followers, **"You are the salt of the earth"** and **"You are the light of the world."**

Salt

- Salt adds flavor, preserves, and protects. As followers of Jesus, we are called to bring life, truth, love, and preservation into a decaying world.

Light

- Light exposes darkness and helps people see. Each believer carries the light of Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Together, the church becomes like a city on a hill, shining brightly for the world to see.

Application Questions

1. Where have I become spiritually sleepy or distracted?
2. Has the sacred become mundane in my relationship with God?
3. Am I treating church like a consumer or like a disciple on mission?
4. Where has God placed me to be salt and light?
5. Am I willing to endure hardship for the cause of Christ?

Closing Challenge

The world is dark, people are struggling, and God has placed His church here for a purpose. We are called to relationally **RESTORE, RAISE UP, and RELEASE disciples of Jesus.**

The question is simple:

ARE YOU IN?