



SALT OF THE EARTH

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Matthew 5:13-16*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

As a true believer in Christ Jesus, we have been called to be a witness and a living testimony to the world of God's mercy and love. We have become a light in the world of darkness, to preach the gospel of Jesus and to help lead others to find salvation through Jesus Christ (*Matthew 5:16; John 15:27*).

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men (Matthew 5:13).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. Be an example to others around you (*Mark 9:50*).
2. Be doers of the *Word* not hearers only (*James 1:22*).
3. We must share and testify about Jesus to others (*II Timothy 1:8, 16*).
4. Let the light of Jesus shine through you (*Acts 13:47*).
5. Jesus is the Light of the world (*John 8:12*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

Over the years mankind has discovered the many uses and advantages of salt. Salt is widely used as a preservative to keep foods fresh for multiple days. It is also used to bring out the taste and natural savor in foods. Salt is also very important in the human diet for many reasons; it helps the body retain water, it helps

the muscles in the body contract, and it also helps the stomach with the process of digestion and absorption, just to name a few. Jesus calls the believer, "The Salt of the Earth" because of similar reasons. The believer helps to bring the light and life through Jesus Christ, just as salt is used to enhance the flavor of foods. Just as salt aides in extending the shelf life of food so too does the believer preserve life for mankind on earth.

LESSON SUMMARY:

Jesus uses many different analogies when comparing believers to earthly things. He compares the believer to animals, such as the sheep who heeds to their shepherds' call (*John 10:25-27*). He compares believers to precious jewels whose price cannot be measured (*Malachi 3:17*). Jesus also refers to the believer as the salt of the earth for two reasons: **1)** Salt brings out the flavor in foods just as the believer testifying can bring out God's love in others if they would only take the *Word* to heart and follow the steps to salvation. **2)** Just as salt is used to preserve foods, water-washed, Spirit-filled believers help to preserve the earth until Jesus comes in clouds of glory to catch away His Bride.

Yes, the believer is the salt of the earth because of the Holy Spirit that dwells within them. But the day is coming when the Holy Spirit will be taken out of this earth. When the trump of the Lord sounds and the Bride of Christ will hear, "come up hither, come up hither, come up hither" and be caught up to meet the Lord in the clouds, the need for preservation of the earth will no longer be necessary. Let us continue to be a light to others, preach the Gospel of Jesus, testify of His wonderful mercy, love and grace, and continue to be the salt of the earth until He comes again.

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