

# What The World Has The Right To Expect Of Christians

“The church is the only fellowship in the world where the one requirement for membership is the unworthiness of the candidate.”

Mt.5<sup>3</sup> Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Ac.2:....<sup>37</sup> when they heard this they were cut to the heart... what shall we do? <sup>38</sup> . . . <sup>47</sup> Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

1 Tim.1<sup>15</sup> This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

We are sinners saved by grace . . . But that's no excuse for loose living

Tit.2<sup>11</sup> the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

[Grace comes to save all, but only few say yes.]

Question:

What does the world have the right to expect of Christians?

# I. A Good Example

## Mt.5:13-16, salt...light

### Job 6:6

- Salt: Industries use salt in 14,000 ways.
- Only 3% used in home.
- Society is obsessed with salt-free food.
- Jesus' concern: salt-free Christians.
- He requires us to be salt in wicked world.
- Salt stops decay.
- 2 Co.4:6, God commanded light to shine out of darkness... Light is positive. Spread truth.

## Mt.26:13

- No fast or feast in Mary's honor
- Her name recorded in divine record to remind us – mimic good examples

## Ph.2:15; 1:27-28

- Ep.4:28, money
- Ep.5:22, 25, family
- Ep.6:6, job

Tit.2:1-7, self-control, good example . . . 9-10

I. A Good Example

II. Put Lord First

- Mt.6:33 . . .
  - Seek. All seek something; choose wisely
  - First. All have priorities; this is first
  - Kingdom. Authority – all have goals
  - Righteousness. All behave in some way; here, upright, as 5:6, *hunger and thirst for...*
  - All these things... (= last words of v.32, 'our heavenly Father knows we have need of...'). Emphasis on Source of blessings.



- Lk.16:8 . . . Wisdom plans for the future.
  - Lk.12:19-20 . . . Choices determine destiny; the rich fool failed...
  - Lk.16:10, faithful stewards are rewarded (Mt.25:34-40)
  - Lk.16:11-12, we are stewards
  - Lk.16:13, no servant can serve two masters
    - Judas
    - Ananias and Sapphira
    - Demas

- Mt.10:34-37, do not put full weight on world
  - 32-33, divided allegiance does not save
  - Ro.16<sup>3</sup> Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup> who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. <sup>5</sup> Likewise greet the church that is in their house.

I. A Good Example

II. Put Lord First

III. Obey Laws of Land

# 'But I don't agree with some laws'

- When laws conflict – Ac.5:29
- Our lawmakers are not worse than Nero...
- Christians serve in two kingdoms

Rome

Heaven

- “But Christians lived in Rome” – they obeyed, paid taxes, were good examples, refused to break God's laws

I. A Good Example

II. Put Lord First

III. Obey Laws of Land

IV. Teach Gospel to Them

## Gospel: 'good news' – Ro.1

14: debtor to all... IOU... Grace obligates.

- Blessing: make people miserable over sin and guilt (Ac.2:37)

15: ready to preach gospel...

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16-17: 'for' (three times): *introduces the reason Paul is eager to preach gospel in Rome...*

- *Why? Because I'm not ashamed*
- *Why? Gospel is power of God to salvation*
- *Why? To reveal righteousness of God*
  - Paul is not ashamed to go to Rome...

- Gospel is good news / power of God...
  - Ph.4:22...taught by a prisoner
    - Salvation (negative) ...
    - Everyone who believes (positive): Ac.2...
- Righteousness of God: Ro.10:1-3



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V. Unspotted From World

# James 1:27

Unspotted: unstained.

2 Pt.3:14, Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.

- Jn.15:19, if you were of the world, the world would love its own.
  - The world hates the church because the world hates (God's) judgment
- Jn.17:15, I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one...

## 1 Pt.4

<sup>3</sup> For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. <sup>4</sup> In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. <sup>5</sup> all will give account to Him Who is ready to judge the living and the dead...

Ro.12<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Many worldlings demand their rights...
- They DO have the right to expect Christians to behave as Christians should.
- If we ignore this duty, we will answer to Lord.