



Truth for Today

November 29, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

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Salt and Light

By Berry Kercheville

Imagine being an early disciple of Jesus, a Jew, in northern Palestine in the first century. You have grown up under the power of the Roman Empire and never traveled more than 50 miles from your home. You are a virtual nobody. Then you hear Jesus say, "You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-16). Jesus did not say, "You are the salt of Palestine or the salt of Capernaum, but you are the salt of the earth. With these simple words, Jesus laid out the vision of his kingdom. "Salt of the earth...light of the world," – it is through you, my disciples, that my kingdom will cause the world to glorify God. Amazing.

Understanding "Salt of the Earth." I am amazed at the different ways salt has been interpreted over the years. There are lengthy descriptions of how salt was a preservative in the first century and therefore we are to be a preservative to a corrupt world. While it is true salt was a preservative, that is not the sense of the metaphor. Look carefully, "but if the salt *has lost its taste*, how shall its saltiness be restored?" Salt transforms that which it touches. Salt makes that which it touches salty. We are here to make salty people! Jesus said, people who are not salty are good for nothing.

Notice Jesus does not say, "You *have* salt" or "you need to put some salt on people." He says, "You *are* salt." Salt and light influence people and change the nature of people. Jesus describes who we are; He gives us our identity. These two metaphors (you are salt, you are light) show that this is who you are.

Please allow me to be blunt. Many Christians have forgotten this vision and lost sight of who Jesus said we are. You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world. The picture, indeed, is amazing but even more amazing is how many churches, claiming to be followers of Christ, put little or no effort into using their lives to salt the earth or light the world. How can that happen when the Sermon on the Mount, the "manifesto of the King," tells us that this is our purpose?

You see, *salt must touch that which it flavors*. If the salt is left in the pantry, the food will not be flavored. Salt must touch the food. Therefore, if we are the salt of the earth, we must touch the lives of people. Our salt is worthless until we touch a life. Our lives are pantries in which salt is kept. We either invite people into the pantry or we get out of our pantries to touch a life. Jesus was accused of being "a friend of sinners" (Lk. 7:34) because He was. He touched sinners and changed them.

Now notice: "If the salt has lost its taste...it is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under

people's feet." Okay, who are we to God if we have lost our flavor? Who are we to God if the salt remains hidden in the pantry? Jesus is giving a strong warning here. Many come together as God's people come, assembling in beautiful buildings, rejoicing in their salvation and enjoying the pleasure of being a spiritual family, but they are salt that has lost its flavor and light that is dimmed. On Sundays and Wednesdays, the walls, the carpets, the pews, and the saved are evangelized, but the salt remains in the pantry, and the earth and the world are not transformed.

However, we need to also look at the positive side. When Jesus said, you are the salt, he implied confidence that through his disciples the world would be salted. We may not have confidence in ourselves, but Jesus made us salt, and he said that through us the earth would be salted. Indeed, if we live salty lives, the world will glorify the Father.

You Are the Light of the World. In some ways, calling disciples the light of the world is more amazing than the salt metaphor. This is a direct reference to the words of the Father to the Messiah recorded in Isaiah 49:6: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

The proclamation is that God would make Jesus the light of the world so that salvation would reach to the end of the earth. But Jesus did not stay on this earth. Jesus spent his short ministry teaching his disciples how to be light. Therefore, in Acts 13:46-47, Paul quoted Isaiah 49:6 and said, "For so the Lord command us, saying, 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth.'" Though Isaiah spoke of God making Jesus the light, Paul understood that through the work of Jesus we all have become light to bring salvation to the end of the earth.

Consider that Jesus calling us light is exclusive: you alone are the light of the world. There is no one else who is light. If we alone are the light of the world, what a challenge! What a responsibility! What a purpose! What an honor given us by God to be his light! God did not save us to gather in our meeting places and "high-five" each other because we are saved. He saved us and created us salt and light so that the world would glorify him. We need to be careful lest we become self-centered. Before all else, our salvation is about God's glory. He called us to be salt and light, "so that men might give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

It is time we got out of our pantries. It is time we stop covering our light with a "basket." If the salt loses its taste, who are we? If the light does not show the way, it is darkness, and all the solemn assemblies will not change that.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Kathy Austin's** second knee procedure will soon be scheduled.
- **John Chegin's** surgery to remove two cysts in his wrists was cancelled due to danger the doctors felt it posed to him.
- **Linda Peterson** is much better
- **Rich Shewmake** is home and feeling some better but still weak and coughing from the pneumonia.
- **Jon Winfield** is not doing well on the ventilator at Houston Northwest at 1960. Please Pray.
- **Carmen Bettons'** older cousin, Gloria Richardson, in MO and with family who is suffering health and pain.
- **Mickey Chandler's** grandmother, Nora Chandler, has been moved to an Assisted Living arrangement.
- **Karen Dargan's** parents' Bobby and Vera Thompson.
- **Tricia Davis'** dad, Bill Zwerneman, is home recovering from COVID.
- **Livian Ford's** sister, Nikkie, is 27 weeks in her pregnancy and combatting gestational diabetes.
- **Stuart Jones'** mom, Marcia Jones, should soon begin her physical therapy after recent fall.
- **HOLIDAY TRAVELLING.** Over the holiday, several will be travelling so be mindful of all of those who will be to stay safe and well
- **UPDATE:** We are watching COVID updates and upticks in the numbers. While eight of our members in the last two weeks have tested positive for the COVID virus, we are fortunate to only have had about fifteen since this all began for us in March – which we are grateful to God for. We will continue to urge mask wearing for everyone's protection during our assemblies and will do our very best to follow guidelines to keep everyone safe – as well as following up on the application of sanitizing procedures and shield from BioPure.

IN-PERSON SCHEDULE (*Seating is based on pew capacities to maintain safe seating distances. Please follow recommended wearing of face masks, especially when singing*).

- **ONE SUNDAY SERVICE** — at 10:00 a.m. (Lord willing).
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS, 7:00 PM.** Adult class is "BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS" and children classes will meet in their rooms to resume the curriculum series.
- **TUESDAY CLASS, 10:30 AM.** "FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: the story of Israel (from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) **WILL RESUME 12/1**
- **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES, Beginning 12/6, (Next Sunday) 9:00 AM.**
 - We will resume Bible Classes for all ages on Sundays on 12/6 at 9:00 a.m. Our new schedule will be 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (worship) on Sundays.

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

LiveStream events are still InPerson events and replayable on our YouTube Channel

- **Worship** | Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** on first Sundays[2-12] | 12/6 4:00 p.m. (classroom 9)
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS** [12-18] | Bible Class on First Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (classroom 5)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class on first Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | Sat., 12/4, TBA
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | TBA until January
- **ADULTS STUDY** [30/40] | (TBA) until January
- **2020 EVENTS**
 - Area-Wide Singing | Sat., 3/6
 - Gospel Meeting with Ed Brand | 3/28-31
 - VBS | 6/22-25* (Tue-Fri)
 - Youth Lectures with Caleb Churchill & Andy Harrison | 8/7-8

- Gospel Meeting with Mike Wilson | 9/26-29

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett, Al, or Nathan know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Spring quarter. **Please contact Don Hooton if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for the family at a funeral.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

Week Forty-seven (beginning 11/29)

- READ Psalm 47, 97, 147
- MEMORIZE Psalm 147:1-5

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship AM	121	50	82	48
Tuesday Adult Class	10	23		
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	59	30	29	8

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM 11/29	10:00 AM 12/6	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Dwight Haas	Adam Bohanan	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Jonathan Chandler	Nathan Shows	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
SongLeading	Norman Davis	Dwight Osteen	George Chapman 281.298.1303
1 st Prayer	Harvey Goble	Gerald Hodges	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	Josh Suarez	Ethan Dulin	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:26-33	Acts 3:1-10	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion_Lead	Troy French	Hayden Clark	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2 nd Prayer	Jay Dulin	Brian Clark	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	Hootons	Bohanans	<i>Evangelists</i>
Sanitize-Pews After	Shewmake	Chandlers	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Hooton	Hooton	<i>Website</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	Norman Davis & Timothy Chandler	Keith Arrants & Jonathan Chandler	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM 12/2	7:00 PM 12/9	Church Email
SongLeading	Dwight Haas		woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Granville Betton		
Prayer	Lyn Ray		
Announcements	George Chapman		