

INSIGHT

In ancient times, salt was so valuable that it was used for money. In fact, our modern word *salary* is derived from the word salt. The Latin word *salarium* means “salt money” and referred to the allowance of salt that was paid to Roman soldiers. Even today, in some parts of the world, salt is one of the most prized commodities. Salt is valued because of its properties as a condiment and preservative, along with its essentiality to the body.

In Biblical times, salt took on a religious significance. Apart from it being used as a seasoning for food (*Job 6:6*), salt had an intimate connection with the idea of a covenant or binding relationship. Called the “*salt of the covenant*”, salt was used in all of the offerings (*Lev. 2:13*) and was a symbolic “preservative” of covenants (*Numbers 18:19*; *2 Chron. 13:5*).

Jesus calls His disciples to be *the salt of the earth* and lights of the world. The Old Testament prophets were the salt of the land of Canaan; but Christians are called to be salt of the whole earth, for Jesus said *go into all the world and preach the good news*. How can a few people effect such a large region as the world? By working silently as salt with the gospel of Christ! Just as a handful of salt disperses its taste throughout food, so the teaching of the gospel disperses far and wide, penetrating and reaching the hearts of men (*Acts 2:37*). The *salt* of the gospel cleanses the soul and preserves it from spiritual decomposition. It is an everlasting covenant between God and true believers.

Just as salt was required in all sacrifices, so are Christians required to be “salty,” to be *salt of the earth*. Mankind lies in ignorance and wickedness, in need of Jesus! For this reason, Christ sends His believers to season the world, through their lives and teachings, with the knowledge and grace of the gospel! To render

those who would believe the gospel acceptable to God! Be the salt of the earth!

The Life in Christ

The Salt Of The Earth

Key Text: **Matthew 5:13**

"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 by men."

Theme:

Christianity is the salt of the earth, diffusing the hope of the gospel in the hearts of men! Faithful believers are a great blessing to the world because through them, the world is seasoned with the message of eternal life! Christians are called not only to teach the gospel, but to live lives worthy of the gospel (*Col. 1:10*). Are you salted with the grace and goodness of the gospel? Is grace and goodness flowing through you in what you say and do? Do men see Christ living in you? Are you the salt of the earth?

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. **Be a source of encouragement!** Be known as a person who edifies, both in the spiritual and secular realms.
2. **Pray for wisdom!** Ask the Lord to shine through you in all you say and do, that His name will be glorified in your life!
3. **Read the Word!** Grow in the knowledge of the Lord and apply God's teaching to all circumstances!
4. **Test everything!** In all you do, do it to the glory of God! Let all your decisions be to the praise of Jesus!
5. **Share the gospel.** Part of being the *salt of the earth* is us spreading the “taste” of

the gospel to others and to preserve the souls of men through the hope of the cross!

C. By Influencing your surroundings

1. With your zeal for good deeds *Titus 2:14*
2. Your desire for holiness *2 Cor. 7:1*
3. Be authentic! *Mark 9:50*

May the Lord richly bless you!

SMALL GROUP STUDY

SERMON OUTLINE

The Salt of the Earth!

I. Properties of Salt

A. It Preserves

1. Prevents corruption
 - a. Good antiseptic
 - b. Keeps away harmful microbes
2. Maintains purity
 - a. Preserves original form
 - b. Has a cleansing effect
 - c. Removes harmful ice, snow
3. Preserves balance, unity
 - a. Maintains integrity
 - b. Is a neutral solution

B. It enhances flavor

1. Salt makes your tastebuds dance!
2. Makes you want more of something
3. Creates a craving

C. It is influential

1. It will always be salty
2. You can count on it!
3. It dissolves and permeates thoroughly
4. It will be noticed

II. How salt's properties can be exhibited in us:

As God makes you salty you will be salt...

A. By Preserving the Word *1 Timothy 4:16*

- 1- God has set you aside (made you holy)! *2 Peter 1:4*
1. Prevent being corrupted by the world *James 1:27*
2. Transform yourself by renewal *Rom 12:1f*

B. By Preserving Peace *Romans 14:17*

1. In your deeds
2. In your speech *Colossians 4:6*
3. In your thoughts and attitude

Warm-up:

Would you season your food with a spice that is totally flavorless? Why? What is the purpose for using spices?

See To It

Matthew 5:13-16

1. What is the nature of salt? What does it do?
2. How are *light* and *salt* similar? How are they different? Explain in secular and spiritual terms.
3. Why are Christians the salt of the earth? What does it mean to be *the salt of the earth*?
4. How does New Testament Christianity differ from Old Testament Judaism in terms of verse thirteen?
5. Explain what Jesus meant by salt losing its saltiness?

Seeing It Closer:

1. Chemically speaking, can salt (sodium chloride) lose its saltiness? What do you think?
2. What are the characteristics of those who truly love Jesus and His church?
3. How are we to be the salt? Give a modern application of a Christian being spiritual salt.
4. How can we become tasteless or "saltless?"

Getting To It:

Pray for each other to be spiritual salt, dispelling the knowledge and grace of the Lord to a dark and lost world. Pray that each of us would never lose our saltiness and thus become useless to God.