

SALT AND LIGHT

What is this about?

This comes from Matthew's gospel 5:13-16. Jesus tells us that we should be salt and light in the world. This is part of our witness. We not only proclaim the Gospel as the Good News of salvation, but we must behave and live our lives as examples to those who do not believe.

This applies to all parts of our lives. In our personal and family lives we must follow what God's Word says about our position as husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters. Also, in our personal conduct in our day to day lives we must be examples to those around us and those with whom we come in contact.

In our work and business dealings we must always put moral law and Christian ethics into every situation. Those around us who know that we are Christians are always watching and noting how we behave. In Amos 8:4-7 we read God's response to those that would trample the Word to benefit or enrich themselves. We are both salt and light in work situations when we tell others that a certain action would violate God's Word and our conscience. This is a witness.

Salt was a very important thing in ancient times. It was used not only to flavor food but also to preserve food that would otherwise spoil such as meat and fish. The presence of the salt helped prevent decay. We as believers are often put into positions where we can help moral decay.

Light always penetrates darkness. We live in a world now which has been filled with a profound darkness. We are surrounded by moral relativism and a "tolerance" which tolerates any form of behavior. As followers of Christ, we are labeled as narrow-minded, arrogant, self-righteous, and intolerant. This is because we proclaim that we know the Truth! We proclaim that there is a moral law given by God that is absolute. The world cannot accept or even tolerate this. However, the Lord tells us that we cannot hide our light under a bushel basket. It must illuminate the area and people around us. We cannot "hide" the Light we have been given by "hiding" it within ourselves by not speaking or tolerating certain situations around us.

In John, Chapters 1 and 3, Jesus states that He is the Light of the world. That Light came into the world but men loved darkness more than the Light because

their deed are evil. Common criminals like to commit their crimes after dark. People committing immoral acts will commonly do so after dark or in hidden places. They do not want to be exposed to light. We all know that our deeds can be exposed by light. In fact, Jesus Himself tells us in His Word that someday all these deeds will be brought into the Light.

We need to be light to those around us. Our neighbors need to see us being doers of the Word as well as hearers!