

CONSPICUOUS CHRISTIANITY

Matthew 5:13-16

Are you practicing conspicuous Christianity?

I. CHRISTIANS SHOULD SALT THE EARTH (13)

A. CHRIST'S DESIGNATION: You are the salt

1. The Nature of Salt
 - a. It promotes flavor - See vs. 3-9
 - b. It permeates things - Note Acts 2:37
 - c. It purifies flesh - But some won't like the sting - Consider Acts 26:19-21
 - d. It preserves freshness - Read II Thess. 2:6-10
 - e. It produces thirst - Observe Acts 16:29-30
2. The placement of salt: The earth
 - a. Because the earth is corrupt and needs a Christian influence
 - b. Because everyone, everywhere needs to be affected by us! - Acts 1:8

B. CHRIST'S CONCERN

1. A Condition: Salt without taste
2. A Question: How can it be made salty again?
3. A Conclusion: Throw it out!

II. CHRISTIANS SHOULD LIGHT THE WORLD (14-16)

A. THE CHRISTIAN AS LIGHT-BEARER (14a)

1. They reveal things
2. They rebuke the world - Note John 3:19
3. They often gain respect from the world - See Acts 5:12-13

B. THE CHARACTER OF LIGHT-BEARERS (14b-15)

1. Publicly: On a hill (14b)
 - Giving prominence, helpfulness and hopefulness
2. Privately: In a home (15)
 - a. The placement of the light
 - b. The profitability of the light

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C. THE COMMAND FOR LIGHT-BEARERS (16)

1. Be Visible
2. Be Virtuous - Consider Titus 3:1, 8, 14
3. Be Venerating

III. CHRISTIANS SHOULD INFLUENCE EVERYTHING

A. A PRESENT INFLUENCE

- You are, not you could be ... might be ... will be

B. AN ACTIVE INFLUENCE

- Actually permeating and radiating

C. A DISTINCTIVE INFLUENCE

- This assignment was given to Christ's followers and not the Scribes and Pharisees

D. A COLLECTIVE INFLUENCE

- The behaving believers should be corporately influencing others

E. A PARTICULAR INFLUENCE

- Impacting the spiritual realm and not the social, economic or political elements

F. A HUMBLE INFLUENCE

- This is for God's glory not ours

CONCLUSION:

What do people know about you?

Are you having an impact on those around you?

May God help us to be influential ... making a difference, being distinctive

- Read Acts 17:6