

## **SOTM 10 – You Are Salt And Light**

**1 Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

**Mat 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.**

Salt has two main purposes ... to bring flavor and to preserve something for the future. I could use the word "save" it for the future. My mom's father was famous for making his own sausage. They didn't have electricity in those days out in the country. They did not have access to refrigeration. The only way to preserve the meat for future use was to preserve it with salt. Have you ever heard of salt pork?

I still remember the flavor of that sausage all of these decades later. It was unique and unlike any other I have ever tasted. The life of Christ brings out the flavor or life in you. In the same way no two snowflakes are alike, no two Christians are alike. You are unique and Christ will bring out the flavor of your life in a way it would never happen without Him.

In this world, we are the salt because ... we have Christ in us. Not only does His life in us "save us" for the future, it also saves others for the future as we share Christ with them. If we no longer "live as He lived" and if we no longer share Christ with those around us, the salt has lost its savor. It is no longer salt and it no longer saves. Always remember the men described in 1<sup>st</sup> John who only walked in fellowship for a short time, but then separated themselves and literally became anti-Christ's ... meaning ... they believed and taught things different from what Christ taught.

**Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

**John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

You shall have the "light of life." This is the new nature. This is "Christ in you." This is the LIFE that illuminates the path of righteousness so you can "walk in the light as He is in the light." This "light of life" is how Jesus walked free from sin, and this is how we can walk free from sin. It is given freely by grace when you receive Christ. Our part is to

yield in obedience to the promptings of the new man within. Obedience to the life of Christ within us has been too little taught in the modern day church at large. Yet following this inner witness of righteousness is the very thing that distinguishes you as a child of God:

**Romans 8:14-16 For as many as are led by the spirit of God [little "s" the new nature of your reborn human spirit], they are the sons of God. (15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**

The Holy Spirit bears witness with your little "s" spirit ... that you are a child of God. You are a child of light, now walk as a child of light. You don't do things the way the world does anymore. You are a child of God. He is holy and you are holy. Here is the path of righteousness, now walk in it. It is the fulfillment of this prophecy from the Old Testament:

**Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.**

The Holy Spirit speaks through the same place within you where you hear the voice of the new man ... your conscience. I am convinced, habitual disobedience to the born again conscience is the number one reason why people have trouble hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit when they need His leadership in their lives.

It is NOT that He refuses to speak to them. He is speaking and they cannot hear it. Why not? They have, on purpose, said NO to the voice of their conscience for so long that they have "seared their conscience" and they don't hear it anymore. But where we hear the conscience within us is the very same place where we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. It is like we nail that door shut. We are saying, "I refuse to obey Christ in me through the voice of my conscience, but I still want to hear the leadership of the Holy Spirit." No, it is a package deal.

**Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of **obedience** unto righteousness?**

The flesh wants to be your master. "Christ in you" wants to be your Master. To whom will you obey? Will you obey the flesh and sin unto death? Or will you obey your

conscience, which is "Christ in you," unto righteousness?

**Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.**

At the new birth, Jesus lights your candle. He does not intend for that candle to be hid under a bushel of flesh. We have too many "hidden" lights ... too many "hidden" Christians. I say again what I heard pastor Bronc say recently, *"If you have to tell your coworkers on your job that you are a Christian ... if that is the only way they know you are a Christian ... shame on you."* Amen! Our light is to shine so bright there is no doubt you are a Christian.

**Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

They see your light shine by the good works you do. What good works? I can tell you what those good works are not. They are not "giving, prayer, or fasting." We will find out in the next chapter that all of those things are to be done in secret between you and your heavenly Father. They are not to be seen of men. What good works are they to see? Later in this same Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes an analogy between two types of trees:

**Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.**

What kind of tree are you? Has the fruit on your limbs changed? The light of life running within you will produce "righteousness fruit" on your limbs. But if the fruit never changes, if even after decades the fruit on the limbs is still habitual sin ... that is a sure indication that the sin nature is the sap running within the tree. It is not a new tree. It is the same old tree, with the fallen nature of Adam still at its core.

We let our light shine before men the same way Jesus did. He lived above sin and so can we. We have the "light of life" within us as a sure guide, and we constantly yield in obedience to "Christ in us." That is the first level of letting our light shine. The second level is:

**John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

**Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**